

Axiology-What is Good (Theory of Value)

- Aesthetics (philosophy of art) **Beauty**
- Ethics (moral philosophy) **Goodness**
- Social & Political Philosophy **Security**
Justice
Liberty
Equality

Definition

Axiology, from Greek *axios*, “worthy”;

logy, “science”.

Called Theory of value

Axiology is the philosophical study of goodness,

OR value, in the widest sense of these terms.

Axiology-Ethics and Morality

- Moral philosophy (ethics), & social & political philosophy.
- **Ethics** (or **Moral Philosophy**) is concerned with questions of **how people ought to act**, and the search for a definition of **right conduct** (identified as the one causing the greatest good) and the **good life** (in the sense of a life worth living or a life that is satisfying or happy).
- Ethics is all about What is right or Valuable.

Meaning of Ethics

- The **word "ethics"** is derived from the Greek "ethos" (meaning "custom" or "habit").
- Ethics differs from **morals** and **morality** in that ethics denotes the **theory** of right action and the greater good.
- while morals indicate their **practice**. Ethics is not limited to specific acts and defined moral codes, but encompasses the **whole** of moral ideals and behaviors, a person's **philosophy of life**.
- **Ethics is idea and morality is practice e.g Virtue and truthfulness.**

Ethics is a branch of axiology, & it has its own sub-branches:

❖ Normative Ethics

- General - the attempt to define the basic principles, standards, & rules of morality
- Applied - the application of moral principles, standards, & rules to specific moral problems

❖ Non-Normative Ethics

- Descriptive Ethics - the scientific study of moral beliefs & practices (part of the social sciences)
- Metaethics - critical thinking about normative ethics (e.g., “Is moral knowledge possible?”).

there are questions about morality:

❖ General normative ethics

- What are the basic standards of morality?
- What are the differences between “right” & “wrong”?
- What is the nature of moral virtue?

❖ Applied normative ethics

- Is the death penalty morally justifiable?
- Abortion?
- Racial, gender, or age discrimination?
- Feminism?
- War and peace?

(Concept and Field)

Social ethics, Bio ethics, Media ethics .
Theoretical background?

Questions in branches of Ethics

- "How should people act?"
(Normative or Prescriptive Ethics),
- "How do we take moral knowledge and put it into practice?"
(Applied Ethics),
- "What do people think is right?"
(Descriptive Ethics)
- "What does 'right' even mean?"
(Meta-Ethics)

Social & political philosophy of Ethics:

- ✓ What are the origins, nature, & purposes of government (the state)?
- ✓ What are the proper relationships between the individual, society, & the state?
- ✓ What is the nature of justice? Liberty? Equality?
- ✓ What is the nature & purpose of law?

Archaic-Sophist's Philosophy

- Knowledge with excellence called ethic.
- They act like lawyers to convince others for the sake of their clients.
- Fathers of “Subjectivism” and “Relativism”.
- Relativism: Individual and social Interest.
 - » Everything can not be true and false, its matter of perspective.
 - » Man is the measure of all things as true and false.
 - » Everyone decides right and wrong from his own perspective.
 - » What is true for you is true and what is true for me is true.

Subjectivism

- Subjectivism is the theory that perception (or consciousness) is reality...true reality that exists independent of perception. It does not, however, claim that "all is illusion" or that "there is no such thing as reality", merely that the nature of reality is dependent on the consciousness of the individual. In an extreme form, it may hold that the nature and existence of every object depends solely on someone's subjective awareness.
- Relativists subjectivism is right and wrong is depended upon the one who has been asked.
- It is possible to accept or deny anything of anything.(Pythagoras).

Relativism

- **Relativism** is the idea that some element or aspect of experience or culture is **relative to** (or **dependent on**) some **other** element or aspect. Moral Relativism is the position that moral or ethical **propositions** do not reflect objective and/or **universal** moral truths, but instead make claims relative to social, cultural, historical or personal **circumstances**.
- Slavery, Women status, alcohol, class difference.
- Sophists, as early as the 5th Century B.C., are considered the **founding fathers** of Relativism in the western world, although their beliefs are mainly known through the writings of their **opponents**, Plato and Socrates.
- Relativism was also discussed by early Hindu, Jain, and Sikh philosophers in **India**.
- **Relativism and Subjectivism are Archaic ethical philosophies .**

Ethics according to Socrates

- Socrates, as recorded in Plato's dialogues, is customarily regarded as the **father of Western ethics**. He asserted that people will naturally do what is **good** provided that they know what is **right**, and that evil or bad actions are purely the result of **ignorance**: "There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance". "Virtue is Knowledge"
- He equated **knowledge** and **wisdom** with **self-awareness** "**KNOW THYSELF**" (meaning to be aware of every fact relevant to a person's existence) and **virtue** and **happiness**. So, in essence, he considered **self-knowledge** and self-awareness to be the **essential good**, because the truly wise (i.e. self-aware) person will know what is right, do what is good, and therefore be happy.

- Sophists say Knowledge is excellence, but according to Socrates knowledge is to know about good and bad.
- “Happiness” according to Socrates is to live life in the search of knowledge not running after money and material because they are artificial and real aim is to get knowledge.
- He says man commits wrongdoing due to his ignorance of knowledge.
- Solution of corrupt society is knowledge.
- Application of ethics on society is called politics according to Socrates.

Plato's Harmonious society— Body soul virtue state theory

- | Body | Soul | Virtue | State |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.Head | 1. Reason | 1. Wisdom | 1. Rulers |
| 2. Chest | 2. Will | 2. Courage | 2.Auxiliaries |
| 3.Abdomen | 3. Appetites | 3. Temperance | 3. Labourers. |
- Perfect Republic
 - Guardian-Ruler class must be trained to manage perfect state.
 - Soldiers –Forces to be trained for wars but under ruler class.
 - workers- Labor class working force to produce goods.
 - Women should also be a part of training in Academy “A state that does not educate women is like a man who only trains his right hand”

Aristotle's Ethics

- Man should realize his **full potential**, that he will do **good** and therefore be **content** in life. He held that **self-realization** (the awareness of one's nature and the development of one's talents) is the surest path to **happiness**, which is the ultimate goal, all other things (such as civic life or wealth) being merely means to an end.
- One attains happiness by a virtuous life and the development of reason and the faculty of theoretical wisdom. Aristotle has encouraged **moderation** in all things, the extremes being degraded and immoral.
- Virtue, for Aristotle, denotes doing the **right thing** to the **right person** at the **right time** to the **proper extent** in the **correct fashion** and for the **right reason** - something of a tall order.

Aristotle social ethics model

Type of ruler	Correct	Deviant
One Ruler	Kingship	Tyranny
Few Rulers	Aristocracy	Oligarchy (Controlling)
Many Rulers	Polity	Democracy

Aristotle Class and Gender division

- “Male is by nature superior”.
- “Courage of man is seen in commanding and that of woman in obeying”. “A society cannot be happy unless women are happy too”
- According to Aristotle state should control family life and members in population number controlling.
- Slaves according to Aristotle are tools with voice.
- “Men by nature are of two types, one rulers by nature and one submitted by nature”.

Ethical philosophies in classical era

- Sophists-Relativism or self interest and Utilitarianism end justified (End justifies the mean).
- Socrates- “Virtue is Knowledge” knowledge is to know about good and bad.(Mean justifies the end)
- Plato-Body soul virtue state theory ethics. Individual to social ethics.(Mean ethics- justifies the end).
- Aristotle- Doing the **right thing** to the **right person** at the **right time** to the **proper extent** in the **correct fashion** and for the **right reason** - something of a tall order.
- Feminism and slave discrimination theory through class division.

Ethics in Hellenistic Philosophy-Cynicism

- Cynicism- Diogenes: Live according to Nature (Simple) is better than **conventional life**.
- **Simple life** is essential to virtue and happiness.
- Diogenes said, “**things of great value were often sold for nothing, and things worth nothing sold for a great price.**”
- “**Refraining from pleasure is pleasurable**”.
- “**Love of money is the mother of city of evils**”

Stoics-Four Cardinal virtues philosophy.

1. **Wisdom**: Ability to deal complicated situation in calm manner.
2. **Temperance**: Exercise of self- discipline and moderation.
3. **Justice**: Treating others with fairness even when they have done wrong.
4. **Courage**: Not to face extra ordinary events but to face daily challenges.

Life is sufferings rooted in passion and desires-
Happiness is freedom from passion-Moral restraint and self discipline is a mean to get free from sufferings.

Five Key principles of Stoicism

- 1. Live everyday as we have last.
- 2. Food is the best test of self-control.(God has given food to human being for survive not for pleasure) as Socrates said we should eat to live rather than live to eat.
- 3. Failure is natural regret is foolish. Learn from obstacles of life.
- 4. Focus on the small things: Do not underestimate small things and place them constantly.
- 5. Throw away vanity or pride.

Skeptic-Ethics as Relativism

- Pyrrho, One cannot **rationally** decide between what is good and what is bad although, generally speaking, **self-interest** is the primary motive of human behavior.
- Since **nothing can be known**, nothing can be in itself either **good** or **evil**, and it is only opinion, custom and law which makes it appear so.
- **Unhappiness** is the result of not attaining what one desires (or of losing it, once attained); thus, the wise person, being free from desires, is also **free from unhappiness**

Epicurus Ethics

- Virtue is pleasure, virtue is good which includes, beautiful thinking, beautiful reading, beautiful listening and beautiful sights.
- Pleasure must be balanced with its side effect with self-control and temperance.
- Pleasure is no sensual, friendship, art and culture are also pleasurable acts.
- Epicurus discourage marriage as it can affect pleasure of life through burdens of family and children. “Living modestly gaining knowledge provides pleasure, a state of tranquility and absence from bodily pain is pure happiness”.

Stoics and Epicurean's Humanism

1. Stoics philosophy of Humanism: Wisdom: Temperance: Justice: Courage.
2. Stoics five key principles of Humanism.
3. Epicureanism's virtue: pleasure, good which includes, beautiful thinking, beautiful reading, beautiful listening and beautiful sights, friendship, art and culture.
4. Pleasure must be balanced with its side effect with self-control and temperance.

Humanism Philosophy

- Humanism, with its emphasis on the **dignity and worth of all people** and their ability to determine right and wrong purely by appeal to **universal human qualities**(especially **rationality**), can be traced back to Socrates, Plato, cynics, stoics.
- These early Greek thinkers were all instrumental in the move **away from** a spiritual morality based on the **supernatural**, and the development of a more humanistic **free thought** (the view that beliefs should be formed on the basis of **science** and **logic**, and not be influenced by emotion, authority, tradition or dogma.

Social contract theory

- Emphases on minimizing harm and maximizing happiness for oneself and others/society.
- Later philosopher exaggerated this idea with live and enjoy especially during roman era and converted in Latin as enjoy pleasure of life.
- Epicurus are called social contract theorist.
- Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) gave social contract theory.
- In order to minimize harm and maximize happiness we should make a social contract or agreement which lay down rights under law.

Plotinus's Spiritual Ethics

Happiness is independent of physical world and is dependent on metaphysical.

Life's purpose was seen not so much in the exercise and rehearsal of the traditional virtues that give meaning and quality to our interaction with others, but in seeking "to bring back the god in us to the divine in the All"

The virtues' main function lies in purifying and preparing us for a much more momentous individual relationship, that with divine Consciousness and, ultimately, the first principle itself.

Ethics in Roman Philosophy

- Romans(476 BCE-27 BCE) were inspired by Greek culture and thought excelled Greeks in state-building and law.(Two philosophers cicero, cynica)
- “We are the servants of law in order that we may be free”(cicero) became slogan of French revolution (Liberty, equality, brotherhood or death).
- Roman were inspired by two Greek philosophies stoicism and epicureanism.
- Concept of ownership and property rights were given.
- Influenced the development of Jurisprudence and fundamental concepts of law today.(civil, property, common, criminal law)
- Inspired by stoics and epicureans. But slavery was in practice.
- Argued that man made laws must be accord to the natural-law.
- Idea of citizenship, state building originated by Romans.

Ethics in Semitic culture

- Monotheistic religion with Aramaic Hebrew and Arabic language.
- Word of God was recited. Believe that God has promised with Abraham that these are the chosen people.
- Abraham- Moses established state of Israel. Later on three kings were prominent Savi, David and Solomon.
- Later on Romans acquired Israel and made them slaves.
- Two prophecies:
 1. Doomsday prophecy-Punishment of Jews disobedience.
 2. Redemption prophecy-God would redeem son of God and king of the house of Solomon.

Jesus Christ

- Fought against Roman atrocities as Messiah and prince of peace. Through out money lenders out of temples “**Make not my father’s house a house of trade**”(John 2:16).
- Raised a revolution against upper class jews and Roman empire. Helped poor class “**It is easier for the camel to go through the eye of needle than for a rich to enter the kingdom of God**”(Mathew 19:24, Mark 10:25,Luke 18:24-27)
- Blessed are the poor for your is the kingdom of God.
- Romans crucified Jesus just as they crucifies their enemies before. After that two dispels of Jesus spread his teachings peter in Jerusalem and Paul in Rome.
- Paul spread the message that Jesus teachings were not only for the liberation of Christians but all humanity.
- Gradually through Paul Christianity spread out in Rome.

Christianity on Ethics

- Saint Augustin “City of God” divided human existence in two beings soul and Body. Dialectics between two.
- Soul demands peace virtue and body results hatred and evils.
- Spirituals are near to God. Spiritual states are city of God. Church is associated to soul and state with body. State must accept spiritual leadership of church.
- Saint Anselm “Absolute goodness exists in divine mind and one who is near to God is virtuous. God is Absolute perfection.

Islam on Ethics

- Arab was dark ages before Islam.
- Polytheist tribal system. Surrounded by two influential powers (Persia and Rome or Byzantine).
- Prophet Muhammad (SAW) brought monotheistic message of Abraham, Moses and Jesus about God.
- After migration to Medina established social set up through beliefs and five pillars.
- Weak and oppressed were given rights.(Slaves, women, poor and needy).
- Prohibition of Usury, unequal of exchange, hoarding.
- Labor and laboring was promoted.
- Class discrimination was discouraged by appointing Bilal(RA) as first Moazan.
- First time successor (Khalifa) designation was established.

Kingship in Muslim Philosophy

- Later on converted into kingship during Umayyad, Abbasside, Fatmeed, Saffawais, and Mughal dynasties.(Islamic state converted into Muslim state)
- Feudalism, communism and socialism later on came as social theories.
- Property and ownership got strong and influential in economic and social institutions of society.
- Art calligraphy, culture, civilization flourished during these dynasties into different part of the world.
- Fair, just, and equity based individual and social structure. Women and slave rights were first time established in human history.