



Justice from the perspective of Plato and Aristotle with a glance to Socratic justice

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ABSTRACT: Justice is a vague word which since the beginning of human life until now has been discussed. The same justice that Socrates and Plato assumed obligatory for themselves its conceptual explanations and it is exactly the same justice that Plato thinks it's hard to define. But it can be quickly mentioned: every three (Socrates, Plato and Aristotle) introduce justice as giving any advantage or thing based on the individuals' innate talent and considered it good. About the Trial of Socrates which is of important and painful events of philosophy history, must also be said: that's why Socrates was punished because of working according to his talents, philosophers believed that the trial was unfair and a wrong sentence and oppression imposed to Socrates. Following investigate the views of Aristotle and Socrates also mentioned about justice. This paper examines the role of justice in Plato and Aristotle, Socrates explains the transition to justice and conclude at this time.

Keywords: : justice, Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Trial of Socrates

INTRODUCTION

Justice have long been considered not only by lawyers and jurists but also all human categories and in a word, should be said that although "justice recognition "and" what justice is" have a history equal to human life and is one of the most deep-rooted concerns of human, noble maestro Martyr Motahari believed: "Justice" has not been place in its rightful place in the jurisprudence, and jurists don't use it relevantly to interpret provisions. As Justice Studies, Al-Raghib al-Isfahani also defined justice as equality and looks at justice as respect to the equal division as Nasir al-Din Tusi interpreted a just ruler as "the honor of God" and the just is who establishes equity and finally, people and society extremely need to such a ruler, a ruler who has knowledge and based on that knowledge is conscious about equilibrium point of various aspects of human life (Soroush ,2004). Here it is good to have a glance at the great scientific and philosophical figures and three Greek famous philosopher namely Socrates, Plato and Aristotle and assess "justice "from the perspective of these scientists who undoubtedly the most golden age of Greek philosophy and law is relating to them.

First, we peruse the current discussion of Plato's view:

Plato, one of the world's greatest philosophers, born in Athens and probably in 427 or 428 BC into an Athenian famous family of prominent, Plato 's philosophical style is intellectual discussion which is well known as dialectic and learned it from Socrates. Plato founded a University called "Academy "in Athena, and finally, died in 347 or 348 BC and at the age of 80. (Taleb Zadeh ,2011).

The Greek word "justice" is a translation of the word "decisions". This word similar to the word "Politia" includes a broader meaning in the original language that all of them are perceived from the word which he selected for his translation (I.e. the English word Justice).

Justice or fairness in Plato's philosophical vocabulary has a special meaning that in today's common language, means "the moral principles and belief ".

Justice from the Plato's perspective includes a form of internal talent and desire which prevents his intense feelings and motivations who are seeking private interests and encumber human from doing things that seem to be full advantage but collapse his conscience. Justice in Plato's perspective is a part of human virtue, and at the same time, is a string that binds the people in governments. In other words, it is a character that at the same time, both makes a good man and bring him up as a social human. This means the same understanding of the effects of justice in the education of human's soul is the first and most basic principle of Plato's political philosophy (Michael ,1991).

Plato says: in the world three valuable objects exist: Justice, beauty and truth, and that is very hard to define each of the three. And also says: justice about human to be owner himself and do whatever in his possession...

each man must recognize the result of his actions and do whatever is compatible with his nature and power and a just person is who attempts to do true affairs and to represent to society whatever he is able to do and if does it, the community ultimately will have the greatest cohesion and efficiency, just like music's regular and melodious instruments.

Finally, Socrates was 29 years old that drank the cup of hemlock and the fact that Athenian sentenced to death his most noble citizen, profoundly affected him. For Plato, the Death of Socrates was a clear example of the conflict between the real and the ideal society and the first work of Plato as a philosopher was publishing Socrates' apology which he stated it against the jury (Jostein Guarder ,2009).

Aristotle

After explaining Plato's justice-oriented attitude, now, we speak about Aristotle, one of the Plato's students who born in 384 BC in Stagira (Macedonia) and died in 321 BC at the age of 63 years. He know the foundation of justice in democracy as numeral equality and not value equality and because justice is founded on this basis, people always govern all affairs and the will of the majority in all cases is decisive and final and it is actual justice. Because as followers of democracy say: all citizens should have equal share in the government. (Aristotle ,2008 Aristotlean concept of justice means that each person should be given his proper and appropriate share that this idea forms the backbone of the concept of justice and by a glimpse of justice literature, the three key criteria can be outlined: 1-requirements, 2- rights and 3-competencies; that the theory of justice without justifiable and defensible criteria in these three areas are not possible. (Seyed Fatemi ,2009).

In general, Aristotle sees justice in moderation and knows it including all virtues and Wiley, the French professor, interpreted Aristotle's opinion as "social piety ". However, justice in the proper sense means "a virtue which accordingly, should give everyone what is his right." (Katouzian ,2004).

Aristotle knows democracy which is based on equality as the first and best kind of democracy. In this democracy, the law says that the fair situation is just the status that the poor do not have the privilege of the rich and none else, not have a sovereignty, but both be equal (the same). (Michael b ,1991).

Finally, it should be noted that Aristotle knows the justice as fairness act and divide it into partial justice, distributive justice and distributive justice etc. which is beyond the scope of this article. (Aristotle ,1979).

Socrates

Socrates (399-470 BC), perhaps is the most mysterious figures in the history of philosophy. Socrates wrote no row and we know Socrates through the writings of Plato. Socrates' famous sentence is still current among all philosophical schools, which says: "Whoever knows that he doesn't know, is the wiser one" (Jostein Guarder, 2009).

Socrates says about Justice that justice can be summarized in addressing everyone in their operation, without the intervention of the actions of others. Justice means that human strives in everything that related to him and it is quoted from Socrates that says to Plato: we from the beginning and when we started our rule, assumed it necessary for ourselves to explain the world "justice". (Plato ,1994) Which shows the great importance of justice and its position with Socrates.

CONCLUSION

Comparing and analyzing the status and definition of justice by three studied philosophers, we should consider that the three mentioned philosophers approximately had similar understanding and sight about justice and all knew the principle of justice in dealing with people actions according to their innate talents and abilities and in their attitude the labor division of society should be based on talent and the inherent nature of the community members, thus, everyone arrive to his favor right and the ideal society is formed. Finally, about the Trial of Socrates it should be said that from the perspective of Plato, it was an unfair trial and is a clear example of the conflict between the real and the ideal societies. Socrates also believes that his inherent right is to engage in a work which is consistent with his nature, thus his trial and sentencing because of doing his favorite job which was consistent with his natural expertise and talent, is generally unfair and unjust that Plato and Aristotle also agree with Socrates about such issue.

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