

"School Turns to The Teachings of Aristotle...." [to indoctrinate young minds in "virtue"]

Post by "Cassius" of May 21, 2019 at 8:38 PM

A number of good examples here how the teachings of Aristotle lend themselves to the molding of pliable young minds:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/05/1...h1B-UKWYY1uBtY8>

The course, which is taught during PSHE lessons, explores the importance of "virtuous behaviour" and examines how the "good life" can be achieved.

Pupils learn about various topics - including mindfulness, spirituality, sex and relationships - through the lens of the Ancient Greek philosopher.

Yuk!

There's no need to wonder why they teach Aristotle and not Epicurus.

Post by "Eikadistes" of May 22, 2019 at 3:29 PM

They have a similar gravitation toward Aristotelian Virtue Ethics at Florida Gulf Coast University's Philosophy Department.

In fact, Alasdair MacIntyre's text *After Virtue* (1981) was taught as the primary textbook in one of the senior-level classes.

Post by "Hiram" of May 23, 2019 at 2:53 PM

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/960-school-turns-to-the-teachings-of-aristotle-to-indoctrinate-young-minds-in-virtue/>

Is virtue ethics making a comeback, 2,400 years after Aristotle?

Unthinkable: We must find 'middle way', says Ireland's new young philosopher of the year

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/is-vir...3mIXwi2Hmr3wwiY>

Post by "Cassius" of May 23, 2019 at 3:33 PM

I think I misinterpreted the title, because I too think it is "unthinkable" that virtue ethics should be adopted as a guiding philosophy.

But if I read the article properly, that is exactly the conclusion it reaches - that virtue ethics IS the way forward.

For example the article says:

The Canadian author and politician Michael Ignatieff has suggested that the cause of refugees can be better advanced through harnessing virtues like charity and humility than hammering on endlessly about rights.

Is that not just a *classic* example of virtue ethics? This writer starts with a supposed given (that the cause of refugees should be advanced) and decides that pick a philosophy (virtue ethics vs "rights") according to whether it is the most likely to lead to our desired result.

But some people will think that the cause of refugees (whatever that means) should be advanced. Others will think that "the cause of refugees" is something they don't care about or even oppose.

The point of philosophy is to help us with the analysis of "What is the desired result?" in the first place! And the problem of "virtue ethics" is that it is nothing more than a slick effort to justify some particular result while hiding the reasoning for that result behind high-sounding but totally subjective and ambiguous language.

This article is depressing, to the extent it represents what some young people are thinking, but it's definitely on point, so good catch, Hiram!

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