

# "School of Athens" - The figure of Aristotle

Post by "Eikadistes" of May 23, 2021 at 11:19 PM

I believe ARISTOTLE is carrying his *Ethics*, an interesting choice since Plato (*to the left of Aristotle*) is carrying his seminal text of metaphysics, the dialogue *Timaeus*. Raphael **could** have chosen to have Aristotle carry a copy of his own *Metaphysics*, but, instead, has shifted the association of Aristotelian philosophy away from speculative metaphysics and toward practical ethics, thus, Aristotle gesturing **away** from Plato's Demiurge.

As a general note, blue tones (Aristotle's fabric) tend to represent the concepts of tranquility and grounded-ness, whereas red tones (like pink and orange) indicate romance and passion. This seems like an appropriate difference to point out between Aristotle and Plato: Plato wrote in poetic dialogues versus Aristotle's dry, logical prose. The blue is also complimented by Earth tones, another way for a Renaissance-era artist to distinguish the cultural archetype of Plato's Forms versus Aristotle's Nature.