

An Epicurean Study of Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics

Post by "Don" of October 29, 2022 at 7:39 AM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

Inspired me to finally delve into the NE, and I'm finding it quite fascinating. I'm working my way through Book 1...

Glad to hear! 😊 I'm going to have to increase my progress if I want to keep up then!

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

the greatest good must relate to the polis (politics)

Yeah, my take on Aristotle's position is that the individual is subservient to the polis, the city-state. Humans are social animals but social in support of the state. "political" animals means not our political in the sense of campaigns etc but that we belong in a "polis." Epicurus on the other hand seems to have had more respect for the individual, still social in that friendship and smaller communities were important, but Epicureans "love the countryside."

BUT epicurus still taught that people should actively participate in the state festivals and religious rites that bound a city-state together.

So, yeah, I found book 1 both intriguing but frustrating in Aristotle's insistence on the subservience of the individual's "good", goal, telos being subservient to the state.

But is that my modern, Western bias or is that coming from a genuine Epicurean perspective?