

Exercise #2

1) In the *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk 1:7, Aristotle argues that the chief good for humans is happiness. Summarize the argument for this claim that appears at 1097a23-1097b6. (The two paragraphs beginning ‘So the argument....’ To ‘...anything other than itself.’)

2) He goes on, later in Bk 1:7:

...to say that happiness is the chief good seems a platitude, and a clearer account of what it is is still desired. This might perhaps be given, if we could first ascertain the function of man. (1097b22-23)

and he concludes:

...human good turns out to be activity of the soul in conformity with excellence, and if there are more than one excellence, in conformity with the best and most complete. (1098a14-16)

What is his argument for this conclusion in the paragraph (1097b22-1098a16)?

3) It seems that Aristotle has given two answers to the question: What is the chief good, i.e., that it is *happiness*, and that it is *activity of the soul in conformity with excellence*. How are these two answers related? Does he change his mind when he offers the answer in terms of function (see question 2)? Or what...?

Essays are due at the beginning of class on Session 8.

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