

PART-IISECTION-AQUESTION: 02ARISTOTLE WAS GREAT BUT NOT A GREATFUL STUDENT OF PLATO

Aristotle was greatest of Plato's pupils, he studied in his 'Academy' for 20 years. But despite spending such a long time ^{with} under Plato, and using Plato's philosophy as a basis for his work, he rejects many of his ideas. He himself says. "Plato is dear but the truth is dearer."

i) Theory of Forms:

Plato: He was of the view that forms (perfect ideas, i.e. perfect circle) exist completely separate from their physical existence. A circle drawn is a shadow of the idea of perfect circle.

Aristotle: Aristotle opposed this idea and opined that forms and material objects are not separable but form lies inside the material object.

ii) Theory of Knowledge:

Plato thought that ^{true} knowledge was the knowledge of form. But Aristotle was of the view that true knowledge comes from observing the physical world called Aristotle's empiricism, which contradicts Plato's idealism.

Aristotle said:

"All knowledge begins with the senses."

iii) Theory of State:

Plato ~~def~~ used his 'Theory of Justice' as a base for state. Aristotle protested Plato's lack of practicality.

a) Theory of Justice:

Plato defined justice as fulfilling and performing one's duty. He divided the society into 3 classes and assigned farmers, rulers and soldiers and assigned them duties. But Plato view justice as 'proportionate fairness, treating equals equally and unequals unequally'.

b) Unity of State:

Plato emphasized on the unity of state which was only achievable through eradication of diversity from the society. Aristotle opposed and viewed that state can never be a singular entity.

c) Neglect of Lower Class:

Plato emphasized on the education, training, rules and regularities for guardian class (soldiers and rulers) and neglected peasants (partially) and slaves entirely. Aristotle criticized this saying this will create a gulf between classes.

d) Philosopher King / Rule of Law:

Plato's philosopher king was the prominent figure upon whose training his ~~theor~~ education system focused. And he considered the word of philosopher king as the law. But Aristotle criticized this and doubted because of this point Plato's believe in supremacy of law. Aristotle believed in Rule of Law rather than Rule of Man.

e) Communism of Property:

Plato believed that property corrupts the ones in authority and united common property for guardian class - Dr. Sabine say:

"So firmly was Plato convinced of pernicious nature of wealth upon government that he saw no way to abolish the evil except by abolishing wealth itself, ---"

He suggested: they should live together, eat together and their expenses will be bore by government. Aristotle opposed this and viewed abolishment of property can solve some problem but communism will create many more problems.

f) Communism of Wives:

Plato believed in communism of wives for guardian class. He proposed state to organize a mating period for guardian class and their children be considered children of state.

But Plato Aristotle criticized Plato and believed this as very impractical and against human nature. He said

"The ultimate objective of statesman should be establishment of best practice state"

It was the angle of practicality, Aristotle because of which

~~Rule of~~ Aristotle opposed division of classes & communism of Plato.

ii) Education:

a) Purpose of Education:

Plato considered knowledge as mean to understand form (perfect ideas) but Aristotle believed that the objective of education is the attainment of virtue and happiness - Virtue ^{is} the sense of good according to Plato.

On the otherhand, Aristotle considers virtue more than this - he view its a habit achieved through practice

b) Education for Women:

Plato advocated for education of both men and women by the state, without any gender discrimination. Aristotle considered women as inferior being and advocated only for the education of men.

c) Focus on training of Guardian Class:

Aristotle criticized Plato's system of education which mainly focused on training of guardian class and creating a philosopher king. Plato viewed this as a way to inculcate a feeling of superiority in guardian class and create a class gap between guardians and non-guardians.

d) Art ~~as~~ and Poetry:

Plato abolished the Arts and poetry in his curriculum of education and considered these as bad influence on youth. Aristotle opposed Plato's this view too.

v) Method of Philosophy:

Plato's method of philosophy was abstract reasoning (deductive reasoning), back and forth answering but Aristotle ~~went~~ ~~com~~ used a different method of dialectics; inductive reasoning, syllogism or statement, observation from nature and then reaching a conclusion. Aristotle's methodology dominated Plato's.

vi) Conclusion:

Aristotle was Plato's student but not the greatest follower. He opposed ^{Plato's} ~~his~~ ideas of communism of wives, equality of education/women, ~~pr~~ neglect of lower class, Rule of Philosopher king and many other philosophical angles. On the other hand, Aristotle was also greatly influenced by Plato as most of his theory are based on Plato's work.