

Plato: Apology (10/5)

Attitude towards Meletus

- More caustic than in Clouds
- Accuses Meletus of ignorance and not really caring for the youth

18B: Jury biased

- Some bias present when jurors actually wish to be a part of process?
- Jurors very young and had been hearing slanderous remarks against Socrates for a long time
- Socrates was an easy man to scapegoat.
- Though Socrates made logical arguments, jury was already decided
- Jury possibly influenced by small special interest groups

Pg.44: Outlook on death

- “Expected death, or at least the verdict of death, long before sentencing, but hoped otherwise.”
- Martyr for own cause
- Merely a continuation of his mission on earth (will continue to question people in Hades)
- Optimistic about the possibility of dying

37C-D: Little stock in life

- We have difficulty relating to Socrates' eagerness to die

21D: Wiser b/c he realizes he is unwise

- Questions many “wise” men only to find they are ignorant (doesn't make many friends this way)
- “Is it wiser to tear things down or build up?”
- A wise man doesn't recognize/declare that he is wise
 - Would he claim to be unwise in order for others to reinforce that he really is?
- “Wisdom is believing in something/ knowing you're right regardless of what others think”
 - Fed impulse by proving others wrong?

39B: Wickedness more difficult to avoid than death.

29A: Why fear unknown?

-No reason to fear death

24E: Man corrupts all youth?

33C: What attracts people?

17C: Age

-What if this happened 20 years earlier?

-Maybe easier to accept death at such an old age

39C: Foreshadowing

-Prophecy against those who convict him (wishes their downfall).

38A: Unexamined life not worth living

-“Seeking the truth through his questioning process, but never feels that he (Socrates) achieves enlightenment”

-“Feels that he has examined his life”

-Ignorance is bliss?

-If you over-examine, you may find things you don't want to find

-People can have knowledge but without understanding, knowledge is nothing

-Must actually have events to analyze- turn the filter off and go out and live

-Possible ego boost from proving to others they aren't wise?

System of Athenian Courts:

-Ballot Box for voting on verdict

-Large number of jurors randomly selected

-People present were not subpoenaed, but were present out of own desire

Plato:

-More of a writer than an Orator

-Was a teacher

-More socially acceptable to spread his support of Socrates in school than in public settings

-Less of a nuisance

References to “The god”

-Referring to Apollo

-Attempting to endear himself to pious member of jury?

Conclusion:

-Socrates' sentence justified?

(Left unanswered)