

Plato : Five Dialogues

Apology

11-3-08

Pages of Interest

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- Outcome
- 18 b. – accusations
- p. 37 line b – others
- p. 21, Paragraph 1 – Accuracy
- 18 e – accusers
- p. 32 line b – no shame
- p. 24 19c – clouds
- Line 31e – avoiding politics
- Old page 25 e – back to old ways
- Old page 27 d – justification
- Old page 32 c – democracy
- Old page 30 d,e – god’s gift
- Old page 22 a – wise people
- Old page 18 c – weak vs stronger
- Old page 39 c – threat
- Old page 37 b – short trial
- Old page 23 b,c – prove oracle
- Old page 36 e – chosen sentence
- Old page 38 a – famous line
- Old page 39 (all)

Notes

- Surprise by ending?
 - Not really.
 - On 37b “a trial of life should not last one day, but many days.”
Saying if he had more days, he could have convinced them more.
 - Close vote. Even he was surprised

- Why don't you just fine me? He was giving them suggestions.
- He thinks he is a good person of the society and teaches the people. He believes that society would not be better off without him.
- Death was a point he was trying to make. He was the wisest man around and they are going to put him to death.
 - He believed he was right, so if he took it back, everything he stood for would go away.
 - *Apology* way to leave his message.
 - Benefit for the people.
 - He doesn't want to live his life any other way. He wouldn't be allowed to speak anymore.
 - There was strategy to this also. Socrates was holding people back.
- Socrates knows he is wise.
 - He is wise in the fact that he knows he is not wise. Only god has the knowledge. Other people think that they are wise. It is his life mission to prove that they aren't.
- Socrates had a higher agenda?
 - Probably. Don't think that he was only doing this for the gods.
 - He seems arrogant.
 - By going around saying that they are wrong, he is proving that they are not wise.
- Contradicting himself?
 - He is saying that he is wise because he isn't wise. But he is saying that others are not wise because he is wise.
- Was it right giving them the sentence that he was given?
 - He did break the law, but was the sentence right?
 - Very often, when the *Apology* is discussed. They point out the similarities between him and Jesus Christ. The punishment was ridiculous. He was just a guy who was trying to make people smarter. He was the genius who has a lot of knowledge but has no social skills. He had all the w
 - If they're not going to kill him, he is going to continue doing the same thing.

- Not a lot of good things happen from dissenting opinions.
- Would he have gotten a different outcome if he had just apologized and not tried to justify?
 - No. It would have been worse. People were impressed by his argument.
 - The verdict would have been the same, but the punishment would have been different. They would have let him live out the rest of his life
- Famous quote – Old page 38a
 - If you just coast through life and not thinking about what you're doing in a philosophical sense, your life was worthless.
 - Many people are not used to examining their lives like this, so they may look down on Socrates.
 - Is it true?
 - Examined life is not necessary. If you examine your life and realize you're unhappy, it's not worth living.
 - Looking back on your life, you realize the good things, and bad things. Lots of people don't want to examine their life because they don't want to remember the bad things.
 - It's worth a lot. It helps us live life and try not to repeat mistakes.
 - If you don't examine your life, and you believe you are happy, you're being ignorant.