

Plato's City/Soul Analogy

Outline

- I. Raising the Bar
 - a. Division of Goods
 - b. Gyges's Ring
 - c. Tale of Two Lives
- II. Two Principles
 - a. "Same term, same property" principle. "If two things are both called 'F', then they are 'F' in exactly the same way.
 - b. "Part-whole" principle. If a group has a certain property, then its members have that property.
- III. The City/Soul Analogy
 - a. Parts of the Soul
 - b. Parts of the City
 - c. Difficulties with the analogy
- IV. Why do philosopher-kings rule?

Parts of the City

- Productive Class
- Auxiliary Class
- Guardians

Parts of the Soul

- Desiring part
- Spirited part
- Reasoning Part

Virtues in City and Soul

<i>Virtue</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Soul</i>
Courage	Members of the army (auxiliaries) are courageous	Spirited part dominates
Wisdom	Wisdom in guardians; guardians rule	Reason rules
Moderation	Classes accept who is to rule.	Part of the soul "accept" which desires are to rule.
Justice	Each class "does its own"; accepts its role in the city. Harmony between classes.	Each part of the soul "does its own." No conflict between desires of different parts of the soul.

Bibliography:

Annas, Julia, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic*, Clarendon Press, Oxford (1981).

Williams, Bernard, "The Analogy of City and Soul in Plato's *Republic*," in *Exegesis and Argument, Phronesis*, supplement 1.