Birth of Communism

THE REPUBLIC

Chapters 1-4

1. Polemarchus
   1. Definition- giving to people what is owed, doing good to friends and harm to enemies
      1. Changes: thinks is and really is a friend and think is and really is and enemy
   2. Refutation- just man is most able to show justice in war/ doctor most useful when sick
      1. Sometimes we mistake friends for enemies and enemies for friends.
      2. Tears the second definition apart too- thanks Socrates
      3. “It’s not the role of justice- which is a virtue to harm anything”- justice should make things better. You should always be benefited.
2. Thrasymachus- sophist/ paid teacher of rhetoric/ relativistic- no absolutes
   1. Definition- Advantage of the stronger
      1. Different for different people
         1. Democracy stronger= people
         2. Communist stronger= Communist party
   2. Refutation- Rulers make mistakes about what is to their best advantage
      1. A doctor seeks the advantage of the patient; a ruler seeks the advantage of the subject
      2. Justice is weak, people who are really strong are those who get for themselves- injustice os to their advantage
      3. An unjust person is never truly happy, because they feel bad within themselves
      4. Almost like injustice is virtue and justice is a vice
      5. Thrasymachus only loses because he gives up, Socrates acknowledges that
   3. Cleitophon- extreme sophist
   4. Injustice mightier than justice?
      1. 2nd beginning of the Republic
      2. Is it better to live a just life or an unjust life?
3. Justice & Injustice
   1. the worst thing that could happen is injustice
   2. In a scale of having injustice done to you to unjust as the best life, justice is in the middle. It is an in-between good.
   3. Justice gives you a clear conscience, good reputation
   4. Glaucon is saying the unjust man seems to flourish, and the just man seems to suffer for doing right. The road to justice is a hard road
   5. Best life- being unjust while seeming to be unjust. The seeming overpowers the truth.
4. The Guardians
   1. First, you must have spirit- you have a competitive spirit, nature. You don’t like to lose. Spunk.
   2. They have spirit, but can be potentially dangerous.
   3. They fight and make decisions. They are dangers, they can turn against their own people
   4. They also have to be philosophic- lovers of knowledge
   5. Learn to harm enemy and love the city
5. Education is to be the centerpiece of the city. Education is the key to the existence.
   1. Gymnastics- teach the Guardins gymnatiscs
   2. Music- souls stories, music, mthology
6. Socrates’ Education program:
   1. Musical
      1. Supervise the makers of the tales
      2. Shape their souls with music
      3. Start young
   2. Gymnastic
7. Shaping the Gods
   1. Any story that involves gods disobeying authority.
   2. Disobeying- none of it
   3. Any story about the gods in disagreement or conflict with each other
   4. Zeus and Cronus- if the king overthrows/ disobeys his dad, why can’t I?
   5. Any story that depicts the gods being the source of any evil
   6. Gods must not change form. They must be consistent.
   7. Gods cannot lie- or deceive- they are sources of truth.
8. Men
   1. Any story that depicts the underworld in a negative light.
   2. Shade should not be used for a dead person, makes death seem bad. Death is a good place.
   3. No stories of men mourning excessively- the death of others
   4. Men laughing excessively
   5. Men must not give themselves over to immoral behavior.- Know thyself, and everything in moderation. Don’t give over to passion. Drunkeness and affairs specifically.
   6. Men must not receive gifts or love money (timh’)
   7. Any story that involves anything ignoble- shameful
   8. No drunkeness, no sweet, only roasted meat
9. So what even will be good?
   1. Descriptions of the gods as they are: good
   2. Stories of obedience/ temperance
   3. Stories of endurance in men.
10. Purpose
    1. Build a perfectly just city
    2. Political stability- key feature
    3. The things he says in Book 3 are the future rise of Communism
    4. Do we even want the perfectly just city?
    5. Carl Marx didn’t start communism- Plato did.
    6. A man’s worth comes from what they can give to society
11. Gymnastics- physical aspect of education
    1. No drunkeness, no sweets, only roasted meat
    2. In an imperfect city, there are many doctors
    3. The chronically sick should be allowed to die.
       1. includes the aged
       2. only treatable illness should be dealt with
12. We Are The People
    1. Individual is subjected under the state
    2. The part is not more important than the whole.
    3. No one has the leisure to be sick or sickly.
    4. There is a life… and there is a good life
    5. The soul is superior to the body- we say. But things related to the body are more valuable.
    6. Socrates is a strong believer of how the soul is superior to the body.
    7. Utlitarianism
       1. Your worth is determined by your value to the state.
13. Guardians
    1. Those who can withstand certain trials: pleasures and pains
    2. The most successful= guardians
    3. And the leftovers are called auxiliaries/ enforcers
    4. Guardians should have no property, all food is given at a fixed rate- no surplus
    5. No money, because you have gold in your souls.
14. The Lie
    1. Education, your past, mother, father, your childhood was an illusion.
    2. You were under the earth with weapons
    3. Earth is your mother and gave birth to you
    4. Your job is to defend her
    5. You were born with metal in your souls, which determines your job, and your worth
       1. Gold- Guardians
       2. Silver- Auxiliaries (helpers/ enforcers)
       3. Bronze- Artisan class/ craftsmen (money- making class)
    6. Most important job of a guardians: Watch a child to see its soul
15. The City and the Soul
    1. 4 virtues- Wisdom, Courage, Justice, Moderation