

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we gather not only to debate, but to journey through the philosophical landscape of virtue ethics--a doctrine rooted deeply in the wisdom of Aristotle and flourishing through the ages. Imagine for a moment, a world where moral dilemmas are met not with rigid rules, but with the character and wisdom cultivated over a lifetime.

In essence, virtue ethics invites us to focus on the virtues or moral character. It poses a contemplative question: what kind of person am I to be? It suggests that the answers to ethical challenges lie not in the cold calculation of consequences nor the strict adherence to duty, but in the warm, human embrace of virtues like courage, temperance, and justice. Picture the flourishing of an individual who, through constant practice and reflection, reaches a state of eudaimonia--a truly fulfilled life. Virtue ethics does not give us a blueprint for every decision, but rather nurtures our moral maturity and practical wisdom, or phronesis, which guide us through the unique particulars of each situation.

Critics may argue it lacks specificity, yet is not life itself an intricate tapestry demanding nuance and context over rigid formulas?

Virtue ethics endures as it aligns ethics with the development of one's inner character, transcending the mere rightness of actions to encompass the totality of the good life.

Let us then, with humility and foresight, consider virtue ethics not as a relic of the past, but as a living compass for ethical navigation, calling us to cultivate who we are as individuals within the society we aspire to better.

Thank you.