

At the beginning of Book II of *Republic* Plato's brother Glaucon gives Socrates the task of demonstrating that Justice is something that is good *in itself* and not just good for the sake of *other* things (e.g.: one's reputation, being protected from the injustice of others, avoiding punishment, etc.). In Book IV Socrates suggests that Justice is a kind of *harmony* of differing elements (in the soul or in the state) that otherwise might produce discord or harm.

1. Leaving aside for the moment the fact that legal systems are imperfect at best and outright unjust at their worst (something Thrasymachus made very clear in Book I), what do you make of Socrates' idea that *true* Justice is valuable in itself both in ethics (i.e., in one's soul) and in politics (i.e., in one's relationships to others)? Do you think that someone can have a just character (*ethos*) while living in an unjust state or community? Explain *why* you think the way you do about these matters. (Note: In your post you might find it useful to discuss your assessment of Socrates' idea that Justice is a kind of harmony.)