

# Socrates understanding

Philosophy



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| Socrates Understanding| Beverly Melcher| Ethics and Moral Reasoning: PHI 208 Dione Johnson| | 3/3/2013| Socrates Understanding The concept of holiness emerges into the dialogue when Socrates is trying to find out how to address the gods in a proper way. He is also trying to find out the definition of piety and impiety from the gods point of view. The reason for this is so that the man, Meletus, who feels that he is bring justified charges against Socrates to the gods, because he is bringing charges against his father of murder.

Meletus feels that Socrates is being impiety or impious to his father in not showing him respect for what he has done. Socrates feels that he is justified in the charges because his father was wrong in not providing the serf with provisions until just could be properly done. In Socrates eyes, his father committed murder, and should be tried for his wrong doings. Piety is doing as I am doing: that is to say, prosecuting anyone who is guilty of murder, sacrilege, or of any similar crime—whether he be your father or mother, or whoever he may be—that makes no difference; and not to prosecute them is impiety.

The next definition, ‘ Piety is that which is lived of the gods,’ is shipwrecked on a refined distinction between the state and the act, corresponding respectively to the adjective and the participle, or rather perhaps to the participle and the verb. The third and last definition, ‘ Piety is a part of justice’ and “ Piety is what is dear to the gods, and impiety is what is not dear to them. ’ Socrates hardly sees the first explanation as a true definition. The second appears to him as to be part of justice which attends to the gods, as there is the other part of justice which attends to men.

Piety or holiness is preceded by the act of being pious, not by the act of being loved; and therefore piety and the state of being loved are different. Euthyphro is simply saying that piety and holiness is learning how to please the gods in word and deed, by prayers and sacrifice (Plato). This type of piety is considered a salvation to the families and states, as to impious or impiety is displeasing to the gods and brings upon them ruin and destruction. Socrates goal is in placing religion on a moral foundation.

He is seeking on how to realize the harmony of religion and morality, in which is universal wanted of all men (Plato). He describes piety as being an affair to business, as science of giving and asking the true service of the gods of the spirit and is in co-operation with them in all things true and good and which everyone must learn for himself (Plato). The features of dialogue that aligns with the interpretation of his goals are all the questions that Socrates asked of Euthyphro before he has to be seen in the courts of the gods.

Piety is the virtue that can mean a religious devotion, spirituality, or a combination of both. A showing of respect to one's peers, parents, or the judges of one's actions whether right or wrong. A man with piety is respected by his responsibilities to gods, country, parents, and kin. It is Socrates strictest sense on what sort of love a son ought to have for his father.

References <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1642-h.htm> Release Date: November 23, 2008 [EBook #1642] Last Updated: January 15, 2013