

REVIEWS
PRIKAZI

v

Ivan Vuković, *Platon i Kant: saveti za dobar život*, Izdavačka knjižarnica Zorana Stojanovića, Sremski Karlovci/Novi Sad, 2016.

Marina Budić

What is necessary for a good life? Does the justice or the personal happiness prove to be more important for a good life? Could an unjust person be happy, and a righteous person unhappy? What is justice in the first place, and what does happiness consist of? In his book *Platon i Kant: saveti za dobar život* [Plato and Kant: Advice for a Good Life], Ivan Vuković intends to provide the answer to these questions in a way that Plato and Kant would have given and also to demonstrate how the two philosophers' answers could be turned into advice for a good life offered to the readers in today's world. The result of the comparison between Plato's and Kant's teachings on ethics is presented in this book in the form of recommendations leading to the proper understanding of certain aspects and values of the life itself, as well as to the comprehension of how one is supposed to act in accordance with them.

Vuković introduces the stated questions at the very beginning of his book and names them *the first questions*, suggesting their importance. The author considers them as fundamental for the human life, because without solving what is happiness and how to lead a good life, other questions become redundant and we are unlikely to embark on a quest to find answers concerning other values. The aim of this book is to provide answers to these questions from Plato's and Kant's point of view.

The author deems that the same two pieces of advice for a good life can be found within both philosophers' lines of thought. The first of these – according to Vuković – would be: *In order to obtain more pleasure ultimately, one should take it in lesser quantities at first*. The second piece of advice for good life requires courageousness: *Be persistent in battle for righteous goals*. Vuković chose to highlight these two pieces of advice because they were generally neglected by the earlier interpreters.

The book has a clear structure and its parts are well connected. Conclusions are formulated concisely and well based on a valid and convincing arguments. The author combines dominantly philosophical argumentation with critical, historical and comparative approach, because it would be misleading to study Plato's and Kant's ethics independently from their understanding of law and politics, and to cling on to the disciplinary limitations by constructing ethical theories apart from psychology, sociology, history and politics. The book consists of two main parts. In the first part of the book, containing four chapters, Vuković

investigates Plato's teaching on ethics. The second part of the book, containing five chapters, is dedicated to investigation of the Kant's moral philosophy.

In the final chapter of the book, titled "The good life", Vuković draws conclusions from comparisons between Plato's and Kant's philosophical teachings. The author deals predominantly with comparison of the aspects of Plato's and Kant's assertions that

refer to their comprehension of the soul, pain and pleasure, desire, bravery and morale, justice and happiness. Vuković sums up all the similarities and differences between Plato's and Kant's teaching in an original way. The author's contribution is visible especially in his criticism of the standard and habitual interpretations of Plato's and Kant's positions on the subject in question, as well as in his explanation of certain perplexities found in the works of these two philosophers.