

Justice in the city and the soul

| City part | Soul part | Features of the Soul |
|-------------|------------|---|
| Guardians | Rational | Overrides feelings (439c), calculates about better and worse (441b), exercises foresight for the whole (441e), learns, cares about truth and knowledge (580e). Philosophical (581b) |
| Auxiliaries | Spirited | Anger, resentment. Aligned with rational part against the appetitive, e.g. corpses (439d). “Wholly dedicated” to “control, victory, and high repute” (honor) (581a). |
| Productive | Appetitive | Irrational, feeling, desires, lusts, hungers, thirsts. Drives or drags the soul (439c-d). Insatiable for money (442a, 581a). |

Table 1 Parts of the city and the soul

| Virtue | City | Soul |
|------------|---|---|
| Wisdom | Wise members (guardians) rule the city | Rational part rules the soul. |
| Courage | Spirited members (auxiliaries) defend the city, obeying guardians | Spirited part aligns with the rational part against the appetitive. |
| Moderation | All classes recognize and defer to the ruling part | Harmonious relations among parts. |
| Justice | Each class performs its natural role | Each part performs its natural role. |

Table 2 Explanation of virtues (from 442b-d)

“And doesn’t this [rational] part rule in some people’s souls, while one of the other parts ... rules in other people’s? That’s right. And isn’t that the reason we say that there are three primary kinds of people: philosophic, victory-loving, and profit-loving?” (581c)

| Class | Kind of person | Ruling part of soul |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Guardians | Philosophic | Rational |
| Auxiliaries | Victory-loving | Spirited |
| Productive | Profit-loving | Appetitive |

Table 3 Features of the classes