The Concept of Justice in Hesiod’s *Works and Days*
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Synopsis

This thesis is a study of different concepts of justice unfolded in Hesiod’s *Works and Days*. It opens with an overview of how the idea of justice is perceived in Ancient Greek times and its three authors endeavor to reconstruct it by appealing to the text. The argument is problematized by taking into account numerous concepts, such as social justice, cosmic justice, distributive justice and retributive justice. The following discussion involves allegorical interpretation of Zeus, Pandora and Prometheus from *Works and Days* in an effort to explore how they represent the issue in contemporary Greek society. Finally, the thesis concludes that tracing the development of justice helps us understand the foundation of modern society.

Comment

Readable Writing The three authors of this research demonstrate competence in this analytical writing, considering those complex ideas and terms of western philosophy incorporated in the thesis. Though the argument is at times flawed due to weak organization and there are assumptions that require explanations, the writing is in general readable and engages its readers with their tasteful pick of expression and sentence variety, both strengths of which contributing to the quality of the argument.

Rich Information This thesis covers a rich account of topics and mythological figures, namely the transformation of social justice and the interference of human world by divine rulers. This documentation informs the readers well of the historical and cultural contexts, thereby fascinatingly directing them into the argument. In addition, the authors make allegorical interpretations of these stories and manage to connect them to the observation. Meanwhile, they also take care not to overwhelm the readers with superfluity of information.

Adequately Focused The idea behind this finding—a history of justice—is a compelling but difficult one. In consequence, it is quite an undertaking just to stay focused throughout the discourse. These authors successfully lay out the argument according to the content of Hesiod’s work in a fairly organized fashion. Their hard work earns our admiration in rounding out a picture of the idea of justice in Ancient Greek culture. This finding as a whole represents a worthy attempt to examine the period in a juristic setting.
Suggestion

**Reconcile Contradiction** The conclusion appears problematic and self-contradictory as it claims, “In conclusion, the idea of justice is a universal concept. It is an omniscient existence, but it is changeable. To the Greeks, it is a sense of order based on God. In a modern sense it is given a different explanation.” The authors repeatedly states that the idea of justice is a “universal concept” but also refers to it as “changeable.” If the idea of justice is “universal,” there should be a consensus to the idea and thus it is least likely to be “changeable.” Moreover, what do the authors mean by that “In a modern sense it is given a different explanation?” What is the different explanation? Does that mean the idea of justice is no longer universal because there is a different explanation to it? It seems like the statement is based on the authors’ speculation rather than on the result of an observation.

**False Confidence** Throughout the discourse, there are assertions that show there is false confidence in the authors’ tone. For example, after talking about the problem of women, the authors conclude that “All in all, we can infer that both in the Greeks’ and Hesiod’s perspective, the discrimination of women in an aspect of “social justice.” However, it is an oversimplification since gender equality alone does not warrant social justice.

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