

Abstract

The goal of this paper is to show what is the nature of ethically wrong action considering two of Plato's dialogues – Protagoras and Gorgias. By examining the possibility of different sorts of motivational forces, we will show that Socrates was well aware of the relevance of emotions and desires in the process of decision making. Still, he maintains the idea of reason and knowledge as the superior motivational force. We will argue that the reason why people make wrong decisions is that they do not have true knowledge of the good, moreover, they are ruled by the power of desires. We will also focus on the detrimental effect on human's soul if he follows the path of wrongdoing. Finally, we will show that Socrates offers a solution to those with miserable souls – dialogue and punishment.