

**TITLE:**

Friendship as a Virtue in Classical Greek Philosophy and Ethics

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**ABSTRACT:**

This work analyses friendship, in Greek *philia*, as a virtue in Classical Greek philosophy and ethics. The study concentrates on works concerning friendship of two most significant authors of the stated period Plato and Aristotle. Friendship is examined not only as a separated theme but also as a part of Plato's erotology and then Plato's and Aristotle's study of politics. The aim of this work is to find through analysis of Plato's and Aristotle's conception of friendship an answer to the question how is friendship perceived as a virtue in Classical Greek philosophy and ethics. Furthermore, the work endeavours to prove that friendship should belong to the centre of ethical reflections and should not be shifted to their margin. There are mentioned opinions on the issues of friendship of authors of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century, whose works were published in Czech or English language. It comes out that in Greek philosophy and ethics friendship is an important value which relates to all people without exception and affects the life of individual as well as the entire society as a whole.

**KEYWORDS:**

virtue, friendship, polis, Plato, Socrates, Aristotle