

1.2 The qualities and principles of virtue ethics

At the end of this section, you will be able to:

- 👁️ *Define about moral virtues;*
- 👁️ *Explain what honesty is;*
- 👁️ *Describe the importance of honesty;*
- 👁️ *Behave honestly towards friends, teachers and other people;*



🗣️ **What do you understand about Moral virtues?**

It is a known fact that humans enjoy virtue. Virtue, both civic and moral, is the path that leads to the greatest happiness for humans. This will lead us to a discussion of the virtue ethics principles and qualities. Thus, Virtue Ethics can be divided into two categories: moral virtues and civic virtues. Let us first talk about moral virtues and the dispositions that go with them.

Moral virtues: refers to behaviours that allow a person to live reasonably in his or her community, region, or world. Moral virtues are dispositions that allow a person to live in accordance with their values. As a result, citizen dispositions conducive to the healthy functioning of our community at large include the following:

1.2.1. Honesty



Figure 1.2. Returning the Lost Wallet to the Owner.

Story telling

Truth, Falsehood, Water, and Fire were travelling together and came upon four heads of cattle. They decided to split the cattle evenly and each takes an equal share. But Falsehood was greedy and told Water that Fire was going to burn his land and steal his cattle. Water believed him and jumped on Fire and put him out. Falsehood tricked Truth into believing that Water was going to steal their cattle so they took them to the top of a hill for Water cannot run uphill.

Falsehood laughed that he had tricked everyone and Truth, realising Falsehood had lied, began to fight him for the cattle. They called Wind to determine who the cattle belongs to, but Wind could not determine who the cattle belongs to.

1. According to the reading, what do humans enjoy?

- A) Wealth
- B) Virtue
- C) Fame
- D) Power

2. Virtue, both civic and moral, is described as the path that leads to:

- A) Knowledge
- B) Greatest happiness for humans
- C) Strict rules
- D) Wealth and success

3. Virtue Ethics can be divided into two categories:

- A) Civic virtues and personal values
- B) Moral virtues and civic virtues
- C) Social rules and obligations
- D) Religious duties and laws

4. Moral virtues refer to behaviours that allow a person to live:

- A) Wealthily and comfortably

B) Reasonably in their community, region, or world

C) According to laws only

D) Without responsibilities

5. Moral virtues are dispositions that allow a person to:

A) Live in accordance with their values

B) Ignore society's expectations

C) Always follow strict rules

D) Gain authority over others

6. What do citizen dispositions contribute to, according to the text?

A) Personal wealth

B) The healthy functioning of the community

C) Avoiding punishment

D) Gaining power in society

7. Which of the following best describes moral virtues?

A) Rules given by government

B) Obligations without choice

C) Behaviours and dispositions that align with values and support community life

D) Traditions followed without understanding

Virtue Ethics – Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which virtue was missing when Falsehood lied to Water and Truth?

- a) Honesty
- b) Courage
- c) Patience
- d) Kindness

2. Water believed Falsehood without questioning. Which virtue could Water have practiced to avoid being misled?

- a) Justice
- b) Prudence (wisdom)
- c) Courage
- d) Humility

3. Truth fought Falsehood after realizing he had been deceived. Which virtue was Truth trying to defend?

- a) Justice
- b) Loyalty
- c) Forgiveness
- d) Generosity

4. Falsehood caused conflict among the others out of greed. Which vice does this behaviour represent?

- a) Compassion
- b) Greed and deception
- c) Patience
- d) Humility

5. **When the characters could not resolve the conflict and turned to Wind, which moral virtue were they seeking?**

- a) Justice and fairness
- b) Patience
- c) Humility
- d) Friendship

6. **What moral lesson can be learned from Falsehood's trickery?**

- a) Lies can solve problems
- b) Deception destroys trust and harmony
- c) Greed brings success
- d) Conflict is unavoidable

7. **The story shows that Truth, though delayed, eventually confronted Falsehood.**

Which virtue does this represent?

- a) Justice will always prevail
- b) Friendship is more important than honesty
- c) Truth and lies are equal
- d) Cattle are more valuable than honesty

True/False Questions (Virtue Ethics Focus)

1. Honesty is shown in the story when Falsehood tells Water about Fire.

2. Greed led Falsehood to cause conflict instead of sharing fairly.
3. Prudence (wisdom) would have helped Water to question Falsehood before acting.
4. Justice is violated when Truth is tricked into distrusting Water.
5. The story teaches that lies can build trust among friends.
6. Truth's reaction to Falsehood at the end reflects a defence of justice.
7. Virtues like honesty and fairness prevent unnecessary conflict.
8. Deception and greed are vices that destroy harmony in relationships.
9. Patience and wisdom could have stopped the quarrel between Truth, Water and Fire.
10. The story's moral lesson is that dishonesty and greed lead to confusion and conflict.

Matching Exercise: Match the terms in Column A with their correct descriptions in

Column B. Put the correct number in the space provided

Column A

Column B

1. Virtue

..... A. Behaviours that allow a person to

- live reasonably in society
- 2. Civic Virtue B. A framework divided into moral and civic categories
 - 3. Moral Virtue C. Leads to the fullest joy and satisfaction for humans
 - 4. Dispositions D. The quality enjoyed by humans and valued in life
 - 5. Greatest Happiness E. Qualities that shape how a person acts in line with values
 - 6. Community Functioning F. Ensures the healthy life of a society as a whole
 - 7. Virtue Ethics G. Virtues related to being a responsible citizen