

ARISTOTLE, PROEMIUM, N. ETHICS, BOOK I, READING 1

Every art and every science, and likewise every action and choice, seems to aim at some good. Whence it has been well said that the good is what all desire.

But a difference of ends is seen: for some are acts while others are products beyond these. Where there are ends in addition to the acts, in these the products are better than the acts.

Since there are many acts and arts and sciences, there come to be many ends: for of medicine, health; of the art of shipbuilding, the ship; of the military art, victory; and of the household art, wealth.

When many of these come under one power - as the art of bridle-making is under horsemanship and whatever other arts are about the instruments for riding horses, and this and every other military act under the military art; and in the same way, others under others - in all these, the ends of the chief arts are more desirable than all those of the arts under them. For the latter are pursued for the sake of the former.

It makes no difference whether the acts themselves are the ends of the acts or something besides these, as in the said sciences.