

Study Guide for *Moral Virtue*

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Lecture One

- In what way is it artificial to separate out individual virtues for analysis?
- Why is it nevertheless important to do so?
- Are the core Objectivist virtues an exhaustive list? Explain.
- What is the widest context of knowledge or frame of reference that gives rise to the human need for the virtue of justice?
- What is the fundamental difference between judging choices and judging other men?
- Why is intentional moral neutrality so dangerous?
- In your own words, explain the connection between justice and human survival more broadly.
- Explain how judging in ways other than morally still requires both objectivity and moral judgment.
- Explain the existential and intellectual side to justice.
- How does one differentiate between psychologizing and proper moral judgment when considering a man's mental processes?
- What does it mean to deserve something? How does this relate to earning?
- What is the proper relationship between rewards and punishments in an objective morality of judging?

Lecture Two

- What is force and how is it properly defined?
- Why is abstaining from force not sufficient for saying someone is not evil?
- In a disagreement, is persuasion per se, as opposed to force, a sign of honesty?
- What about force is uniquely anti-mind?
- How does complying with a torturer's demands necessitate something other than thought?
- In what way does force always aim at action and not thought?
- Using your own examples, explain how force invalidates three derivative virtues.
- Why can force not achieve real, objective values?
- Why is intellectual force not actually possible?

- What is the difference between violence and force?

Lecture Three

- Explain how understanding both “sides” of independence is necessary for a proper integration of the concept.
- What is required for existential independence?
- How does one assess what intellectual independence means?
- Does intellectual independence require knowing everything first hand?
- Does existential independence require working?
- If someone is “making a living,” is that a sure sign of independence?
- How does independence factor into differentiating between the metaphysical and the man-made?