

PART 1A – PLATO CRITO

Representation of Crito

Dario Colajanni

The aspects of Crito's character are defined through his **interaction** with Socrates. His values, philosophical principles and ideas emerge in comparison with those expressed by Socrates and by the Laws.

Crito & Socrates

Points in which they agree:

- one must never do wrong (49a4-b9)
- one must never return a wrong (49b10-c1)

Points in which they disagree:

- opinion of the many (48a10-b2)
- friends and family

Socrates argues in terms of logic: he follows the βελτιστος λογος.

Crito argues according to feeling and emotions: he is an **emotional character**.

Points in which they agree only superficial:

- not just living but living well matters
=living justly and rightly (48b4-10)
- one must never do harm (49c2-3)

Different notion of harm:

Socrates → **internal**

Crito → **external**

Conception of Justice → linked to the notions of harm

Socrates, **internal dimension**, justice is what benefit the soul, injustice is what damages it (47e7).

Crito, **external dimension**, justice is linked to social groups such as the family, the friends and the enemies. For example justice is helping friends or respect the familiar duties.

But Crito does not seem to be convinced by Socrates' reasons, even though they agree in some points, because their systems of values are based on different dimensions.

Crito and the Laws on the contrary rely on the same system of values.

Concentric system as defined by V. Harte.