

Plato's *Crito*



Setting: Socrates is in prison awaiting execution. His friend Crito is visiting, and hopes to persuade Socrates to escape..

Topic: Whether it is okay for Socrates to break the law by escaping.

Crito's reasons for Socrates to escape

1. I will lose an irreplaceable friend (44b).
2. My reputation will suffer (44c).
3. It's not right for you to give up your life when you can save it (45c).
4. You betray your children by leaving them (45d).

Socrates' response:

- We shouldn't care what the majority think. We should listen "to nothing ... but the argument that on reflection seems best." (46b)
- "The only valid consideration is whether we should be acting rightly." (48d)