

1st Principles

- epic poetry
- tragedy
- comedy
- MUSIC

All ARTS = Imitation

evokes emotion of PITY + FEAR

COMPLETE & POSSESSES MAGNITUDE

DRAMA → narration (performed by Actors)

REASONING: THOUGHT, Intellectual Process, VALUES, BELIEFS

LYRICAL POETRY: Sung Text

SPECTACLE: Stage Production of Visual Effects

Medium - Means of expression
Color, shape, image, movement, rhythm, language, melody, voice, etc.

Object - Subject of imitation
can be admirable, mental or inferior (trvs)

mode - the manner in which conveyed
[ie: narrative or drama]

ADMIABLE
in LANGUAGE made pleasurable (ie: Rhythm + Melody)

COMPLETE (in order of importance)
COMPONENT PARTS

PLOT

CHARACTER PERSONALITIES
imitation of character is NOT the purpose of tragedy; it is an OUTPUT OF THE EVENTS

(1) GOODNESS - should not be but unnecessary & true to kind
(2) APPROPRIATENESS - should be as virtuous as possible
(3) LIKENESS
(4) CONSISTENCY

REASONING
effects that must be produced by language (if not explicit in the plot) → production of emotions

proof & refutation → establishing importance (or unimportance)

DICTION Spoken Text
LEVELS OF LINGUISTIC CLARITY
Current Words (clearest but risks being uninteresting)
Riddle (made up entirely of METAPHOR)
Gibberish (entirely of non-standard words (slang))

diction is out of & must use the appropriate
Combo to be interesting w/out the loss of dignity

*Metaphor... the most important thing... the ability to PERCEIVE SIMILARITIES

3 Options for Processing Life & Acting

instinct animals
trial & error HUMANS
tekne (an understanding of WHY it is right)

History: progression of the Arts:
Necessity to life
enhanced quality of life
desire to understand

MAGNITUDE - A change from Good → Bad Fortune (or vice versa)

COMPLETE (Self-Contained)
beginning - self-explanatory, not a necessary consequence of something else
middle
end - brings this action to a definite end

UNIVERSALITY POSSESSES
History (The Particulars) What HAS Happened
POETRY - what WOULD Happen (expresses universals)
what one is LIKE this character → would probably do → given these circumstances
Don't have to be (perhaps shouldn't be) ones that arise usually or in general

CHARACTER is HABITUAL speech or Action

Class of Events
Complex → simple
The most effective at arousing PITY + FEAR; the characteristic pleasure of tragedy

PLOT: THE BEST KINDS
Change in Fortune is: GOOD → BAD
Moral Status of Person of said change:
broadly virtuous, but not of Moral excellence (Flawed) (lie vs) → their downfall is not morally repellent but undesired
Full of virtuous character = morally repellent
Full of wicked character = satisfying
PITY IS BLOCKED

All humans, by nature desire knowledge...
we take pleasure in
assimilating into through our senses
accrion of sensation through memory into experience
and the unique human capacity to:
derive universal judgements from experience

CONNECTED SERIES: each event follows as a necessary consequence

PROBABILITY & NECESSITY in accordance w/

POSSESSES UNITY - a single action
NOT a History
Chronology of ALL events in a single time period, whether or not linked by

CONCLUSION OF EVENTS
Character Acts vs Doesn't Act
Disaster Moved vs Disaster Averted

PARADOX which is better?
Disaster Moved vs Disaster Averted

an unhappy ending may maximize suffering & thus emotional impact of PITY & FEAR
a happy ending as the character we sympathize with passes through or anticipates misfortune

an astonishing world arouses our sense of wonder...
Prompts us to LOOK for explanations...
Humans are prone to try to create LIKENESS
this involves recognizing the relationship between LIKENESS & object (METAPHOR)

Philosophy = descendant of the primitive myth making in RESPONSE TO the astonishing world

Poetry & Art expresses that human instinct - For - Imitation (mimesis)

PROBABILITY & NECESSITY
Astonishment
SHOCKING & NEVAILABLE
Complex
(1) defined, continuous, unified
(2) change of fortune
(3) Reversal & Recognition

on EPIC (v. TRAGEDY):
also possesses unity (single action)
Only 4 components (- spectacle, - lyrical poetry)
A Book v. A Play
Can imitate many parts of Action simultaneously
grandeur ↑
Variety of interest ↑
Diversity of episodes ↑

And so...
Tragic poets have discovered BETTER & BETTER ways until they achieved the OPTIMUM FORM

PLOT: SPECIES & COMPONENTS
Astonishment
SHOCKING & NEVAILABLE
Complex
(1) defined, continuous, unified
(2) change of fortune
(3) Reversal & Recognition

Accidental (worst)
Visible signs or devices
memory
inference
by necessity & probability from the plot

Integral (best)

*note: the plot does not have to conform to underlying universal patterns of the real world, but MUST to those of the fictitious world in which it takes place

*episodic plots are most defective; sequence is neither necessary or probable

ARISTOTLE'S POETICS
may enhance the pleasure from a well constructed play by helping us understand WHY IT WAS GOOD

Statue of Mitys

Actual or illusion of connection - metaphor or symbol

Charles Kunen