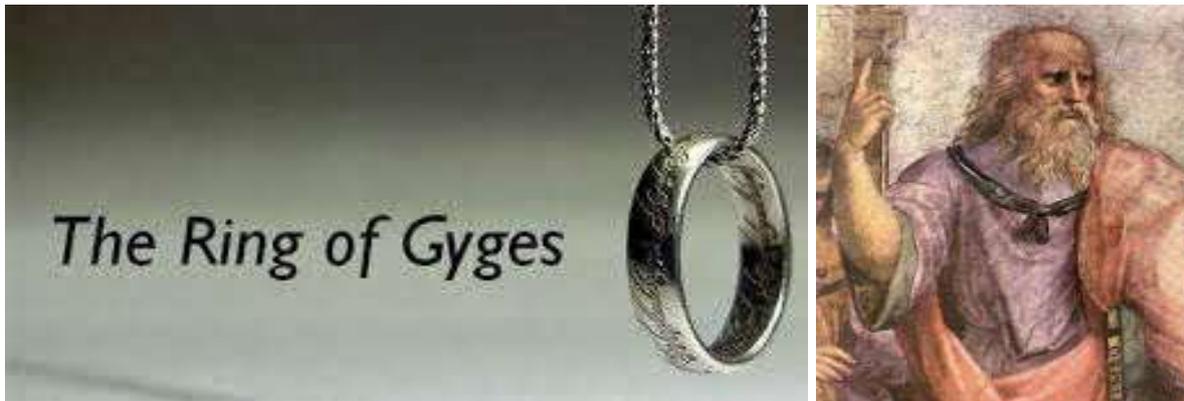


The Ring of Gyges



Below is the story about a shepherd in ancient Greece who had discovered a magic ring, a ring that made him invisible. This was the story:

Once upon a time there was a man called Gyges who was a shepherd for the King. He was tending to the sheep one day and then all of a sudden there was an earthquake and a giant crack in the side of the hill opened. He peeked inside the crack and he saw that it had uncovered a cave hidden deep inside the earth. He climbed down into the cave and was amazed to see that it contained a hoard of treasures. There was gold coins, rubies and statues everywhere. His eye was drawn to a skeleton lying amongst the coins. The skeleton's clothes were still on and when he looked closer he saw that the skeleton was wearing a big golden ring on his finger. He took it off the skeleton and put it in his pocket and left the cave thinking that he would come back tomorrow to pick up the rest of the treasure.

When he was walking down the hillside, he came across the King who asked him to come to the palace the next day and tell him about how his sheep were doing.

The very next day, Gyges got up and walked nervously to the palace. He was worried that the King would find out about his treasure. As he was waiting with other people for the King to arrive he was fiddling with the ring in his pocket and it slipped on to his finger. All of a sudden he realised that he was invisible!! He took the ring off and became visible again!!

He was amazed that this magic ring made him invisible to those around him when he wore it. He decided that he would put it on and go for a wander around the King's palace to all the rooms that the public were not allowed to go to. As he was walking around and was invisible to all the guards, Gyges decided that he would put a few of the King's fancy things into his pockets to keep. No one was going to catch him anyway!

When he made his way to the King's private bedrooms he saw the Queen asleep. She was so beautiful and he fell instantly in love with her. He sat invisible with the ring on watching her sleep and when the King came to wake her up he became jealous and killed the King.

- **Your assignment is: Write no more than 2 sides of A4 giving your thoughts on**
- "If we all had a ring of Gyges, what would happen?"

Consider the following:

- Do you think Plato is right, that we are good only because we are afraid of getting caught?
- Do people want to be good, or are they only good because they will get something out of it, like the approval of their parents, friends, employers, etc or some other reward?
- What is the difference between someone who is morally good and someone who is not?
- Would you like to have a ring of Gyges or not ? Why ?