

Dear Peucinians,

Last week we danced across the surface of the stars and edged along the brink of possibility as we explored the consequences, merits and demerits of the technological and biological transcendence of human nature. This week we convene to discuss the following:

RESOLVED: THE GREAT LEADER NEED NOT BE MORALLY GOOD.

AFFIRMATIVE: GRACE MCKENZIE-SMITH '17

NEGATIVE: ARINDAM JURAKHAN '17

Human history has seen leaders of every height and temperament - from bold Caesar to wild Napoleon to steadfast Lincoln. Many have achieved greatness: their names immortalized, their respective nations risen to cultural, military or economic superiority - but how many have done so in the spirit of the good? Is the task of the great leader limited merely to national security, bureaucratic efficiency and internal concord or are these merely the starting points, the expression and dissemination of superior moral virtues the end goal? Or rather does the greatest leader defy through their actions and accomplishments the very value of such moral valuations? Whose image of the state is more compelling - Hobbes's or Aristotle's? Is the great leader a Prince, or a Philosopher King?

Join us at **7:30pm** this **Thursday, February 13th** on the **Third Floor of Massachusetts Hall** to help us answer these questions and more.

Also find attached a short compilation of pertinent readings, this week featuring Aristotle, Machiavelli and Lincoln. Apologies for the short notice, but please do read if you have the time. And, you know, if you care at all about free inquiry.

Yours with vigor,
Adam Smith, Allan Bloom & Nyx