

# The Wisdom of Hypatia

## The Second Degree of Wisdom Chapter 7: The Discipline of Impulse

### Learning Outcomes:

- You will understand how to live in accord with Nature and human nature
- You will understand your role as part of humankind
- You will be able to deal with difficult people
- You will understand your friendships better
- You will know how to treat people with justice
- You will understand how to succeed in all your actions

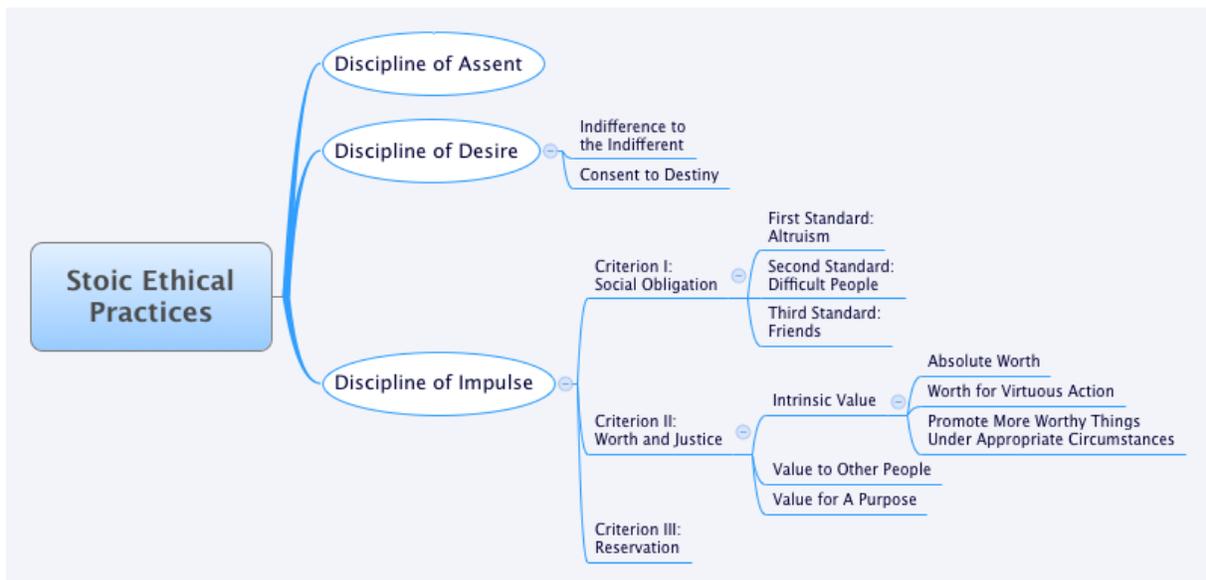
### Key Ideas:

- Salvation consists in living an authentically human life
- The *Discipline of Impulse* will help you to act virtuously
- It comprises three criteria, which address *social obligation*, *justice*, and *fate*
- The first standard of the first criterion is *altruism*: the recognition that we are made for each other
- The second standard addresses *difficult people*, which are like us in their basic needs and desires
- We should teach such people if we can, and tolerate them if we cannot
- The third standard addresses your *friends*, for true friendship should be based on a common commitment to the good
- The second criterion takes account of *worth* and *justice*, preferring actions and things that promote the good
- The third criterion is the *reservation for Fate*, which teaches that a moral choice is successful in itself, even if its intended outcome is not achieved
- The sage desires what Destiny dictates
- Whoever disobeys Nature and human nature is impious
- Ascent toward divinity seeks a unity hidden in separation

## Exercises:

- The Body Politic (p. 119)
- Premeditation on Difficult People (p. 124)
- Review of Friends (p. 126)
- Evaluating Worth (p. 129)
- Examination of Conscience (p. 134)

## Summary of the Second Degree



## Your Notes:

