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## INTRODUCTION

Aristotle's argument for the happy man needing virtuous friends in Chapter 9, Book IX of the *Nicomachean Ethics* is divided up into four main parts. The first part is on how "it is more characteristic of a friend to do well by another", in which case we will discuss his notions on why we need friends both in adversity and in prosperity, both of which are actually discussed later in Chapter 11, Book IX of the *Nicomachean Ethics*. The second part is a discussion on how happiness is activity. The third part is on increasing activity by living with friends. The fourth part is a discussion on perception and consciousness as being pleasurable and desirable, in which we will be required to refer back to Chapter 4 of Book IX to Aristotle's discussion on the "man's relationship to himself" in order to better understand his argumentation.

### DOING WELL BY ANOTHER

In the first part of Aristotle's argument, he discusses some characteristics of a friend and of the good man, and how "it is more characteristic" for that friend "to do well by another." He states:

...It is more characteristic of a friend to do well by another than to be well done by, and to confer benefits is characteristic of the good man and of excellence, and it is nobler to do well by friends than by strangers, the good man will need people to do well by.<sup>1</sup>

The notion of conferring benefits will be better understood if we examine friendship in adversity and in prosperity. To confer benefits on a man in adversity will cheer that man up; it will make that man feel better. This is why we should have friends in adversity.

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<sup>1</sup> Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics", in Jonathan Barnes, ed., *The Complete Works of Aristotle* (Princeton: Princeton U. Press, 1984), 1169<sup>b</sup>10-13.

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Use footnotes, end notes, or in text reference (author-date references) to reference all your sources. There are many online resources that shows examples of how to do this.