

Statement of a supervisor of student Vojtěch Linka on the course of study and the dissertation "Approaches to pain in classical Greek philosophy and medicine", to be submitted in 2023 at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

Vojtěch Linka (hereafter VL) fulfilled his study obligations in an exemplary manner throughout his studies. He regularly consulted the results of his work with his supervisor and presented them at seminars, colloquia and conferences in the Czech Republic and abroad. He also completed a total of three foreign stays, especially a one-year stay (10/2021-9/2022) at Humboldt University in Berlin (under the supervision of Prof. P. van der Eijk) and a three-month stay (1/2023-3/2023) at Cambridge University (under the supervision of Prof. G. Betegh).

During his studies VL participated in teaching and research. He taught both in collaboration with his supervisor at FHS UK, and on his own (or in collaboration with other colleagues) at other academic institutions (FF UK, LFP UK, Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Science). As for research, he has participated in several grant projects, the most important of which include GAUK (No. 78120, 2020-2022), for which he was the principal investigator, and GAČR project (22-11418S, 2022-2024), where he was and still is one of the investigators. Moreover, he managed to publish (or prepare for publication) three articles in domestic journals (*Reflexe*, *Filozofia*, *Aithér*) and two (in collaboration with V. Kaše) in the international journal *Digital Classics Online*. In addition, he is also co-editor of the collective monograph "Aristotle Reads Hippocrates", which will be published next year by Brill.

VL's dissertation focuses on the concept of pain in Greek philosophy and medicine of the classical period. It is divided into four parts. In the first chapter, VL introduces the topic of his thesis and gives an overview of pre-Hippocratic views on pain (including ancient Greek historians, orators and so-called pre-Socratic philosophers), which provides the historical background for the following examination. In the second chapter, VL examines the vocabulary of pain in several representative groups of Hippocratic texts, covering a relatively wide range of words denoting pain, their various meanings, and the typical contexts of their use. In the third and fourth chapters, VL focuses on Plato and Aristotle and attempts to analyse their distinctive descriptions of pain against the background of medicine. Among the most remarkable results of the thesis, I would like to highlight the identification of the tendency to incorporate pain into a general theory and to find positive evaluations of pain in human life, which VL demonstrates in both medical and philosophical sources.

The topic of the thesis resonates well with current trends in the history of philosophy and science, especially in identifying a concept that is as important for philosophy as it is for medicine; in providing a systematic approach to the given topic; and in employing primary and secondary literature from both fields. Apart from minor typos and shortcomings, which can be relatively easily emended, the work presented is of a very good standard, both stylistically and technically. To the best of

my knowledge, no such thematically focused and time-bound study has been published in English or in any other world language, and therefore I believe that the submitted dissertation has the potential to succeed in the future in a publishing house with an international reputation, especially if it is revised and refined on the basis of the reviewers' opinions, the discussion during the defence and suggestions from other experts.

I do not have any comments on the defended thesis that the student does not already know from our previous discussions. The weaknesses I see are mainly that some parts of the thesis are too descriptive, the potential for theoretical reflection and drawing conclusions is not always fully exploited in the final paragraphs of each chapter, and that relevant secondary literature is often only mentioned, not discussed in detail. With regard to the two esteemed foreign opponents who will attend the defence, I waive the possibility to propose specific questions for discussion.

In conclusion, I would like to note from the position of a supervisor that the cooperation with Vojtěch Linka was very inspiring, beneficial, and satisfying. Not only because student's interest was always accompanied by toil and effort, but also because our joint debates regularly brought visible progress and improvement of the text that was being written. I firmly believe that the student will defend the submitted thesis and that he will continue to contribute to a better understanding of the ancient tradition at home and abroad through his research and teaching work.

I provisionally classify the submitted dissertation as "passed".

In Prague, September 19, 2023

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