
SMALL COUNCIL MEETING IN WINTERFELL

This comic is an attempt to portray the Rawls' theory on justice.

Tyrion Lannister as John Rawls



Jon Snow as Michael Friedman (Libertarian)



Arya Stark represents critique to Rawls



Cersei Lannister represents critique of Libertarianism



Jaime Lannister represents Critique to Libertarianism



Daenerys Targaryen as Robert Nozick



“Winterfell” is a country that got political independence from “Westros”. The people in the country belong primarily to three economic classes- high, middle and low. The people belong to different religions as well. The policy makers of the country have been elected. They meet at the Stark Palace to formulate foundations for laws in the country. The meeting is called the “small



In the Small Council meeting, the elected policy makers (starting from the left) Arya Stark, Daenerys Targaryen, Tyrion Lannister, Cersei Lannister, Jon Snow and Jaime Lannister are seated. The Agenda on table for decision today is to decide how to make just laws and address the problem of inequality.



Others are looking at each other in confusion and sort of disagreement



If people want to help, they can do it on their own... Taxing people is stealing money from them! What about individual rights of the rich? If I am the owner of myself and conduct my own labour than I should also enjoy the rewards of my labour. If my rewards are taken away from me by the state and given away to someone else, then I am a slave to the state. That is unjust and goes beyond economic inequality as it takes away my freedom as a human. Don't We own ourselves?

What is the justification for the state to coerce and prevent any person from doing whatever he chooses to do? We should not have any Minimum Wage laws or occupational licensing system. Such laws interfere with the freedom of individuals to enter voluntary contracts with one another. If I want to go to a doctor who has never studied medicine, how can state prevent me from doing so?

9

Is there anything you want the state to do?

Yes! The state should enforce contracts and keep peace in the country.

10

11

But, is there nothing you want the state to do for inequality?

Economic inequality is all fine if the resources you used to make your money were legitimately yours in the first place and such money is made by you either through free exchanges in the market place or from gifts voluntarily given to you by others.

12


13

So what if answer to both is yes?

Then you are entitled to whatever you have, and the state has no right to take it from you.


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15




But you know that economic inequalities exist in Winterfell? Don't you want to do anything for this historical inequality?

16




If you can prove that those in a higher class have reaped fruits of past injustices... THEN this injustice needs to be remedied through taxation reparations or other ways BUT remember friends! This is only to cure old wrongs and not to bring equality per se.

17



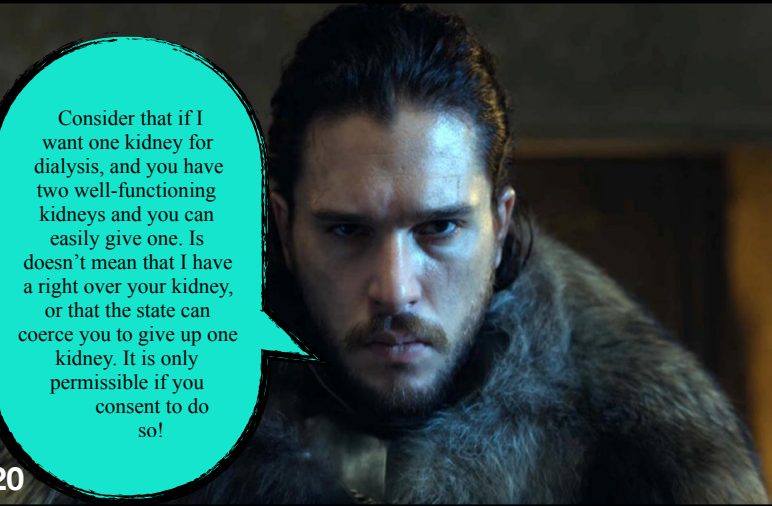
But, if people are left to themselves, the social inequality might increase further. The poor in Winterfell needs money. And we must aim to bring all to the same pedestal first.

18




Very True. And as pointed out by *Daenerys* that people will help the poor if they want, can we really leave a portion of society to the mercy of economically sound population? If yes, then what kind of society are we aiming for, whose foundation is based upon inequality??

19




Consider that if I want one kidney for dialysis, and you have two well-functioning kidneys and you can easily give one. Is doesn't mean that I have a right over your kidney, or that the state can coerce you to give up one kidney. It is only permissible if you consent to do so!

20




Is "consent" everything?? Think of laws.... do you think people follow it because they impliedly consented to it? Or did they put their signature somewhere for it? Think again... Why are people obligated to follow laws?

21



But a law is just if is agreed by the public as a whole. So I don't understand where is the problem.

22



But, consent cannot be the sole basis of all contractual arrangements.... Won't it be difficult to arrive at a consensus? Won't the inequalities inevitably result in compromise as some wield more bargaining power than others based upon their power, knowledge and money, that places people differently in a society?

23

Suppose there is contract between A and B wherein B has decided to deliver 10 flowers to A for consideration of Rupees 100. But before B goes to get flowers, A tells him not to go. But B tells him to pay him Rupees 100 as he had consented to do so. Do you think A should pay?

24



No, because although A consented, yet he did not get benefit from the contract and B did not have to make any effort.

25



Yes! Although A consented, but this case shows that how consent alone cannot act as a binding to enforce contracts. The benefit that is derived out of the contract is an important element in contracts. When one asks the question- is a contract fair? Would you answer him by stating that contract exists so its fair? Mere existence of a contract does not mean that it is fair? What if it has been signed by use higher bargaining power by one party?

26



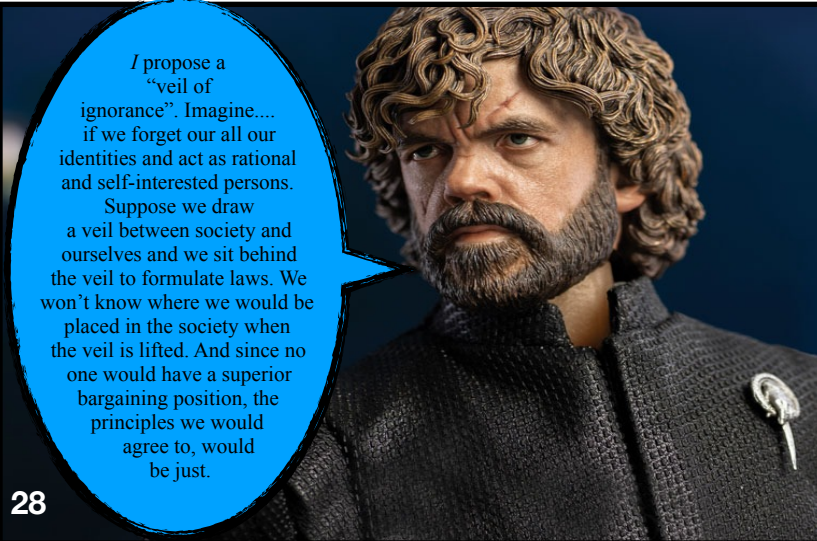
But then what good are Power, Money and Knowledge, if one cannot use it for their benefits. In this case, the power, money and knowledge can be used to get a good bargain for the contract. Do you have any answer, or you are uselessly blabbering!

27



I propose a "veil of ignorance". Imagine.... if we forget our all our identities and act as rational and self-interested persons. Suppose we draw a veil between society and ourselves and we sit behind the veil to formulate laws. We won't know where we would be placed in the society when the veil is lifted. And since no one would have a superior bargaining position, the principles we would agree to, would be just.

28



Do you think that a new born baby without any experience can think rationally and in a self-interested manner? How can a person think about self-interest without experience?

29



But I am suggesting to think about individual self-interest. Where everyone just choses what will be best for them, being striped-off their various identities. And if a child could make laws, that will be the best utopia, as it is already behind the veil of ignorance and unaware of identities and their differences.

30



But, how would people choose in such a scenario?

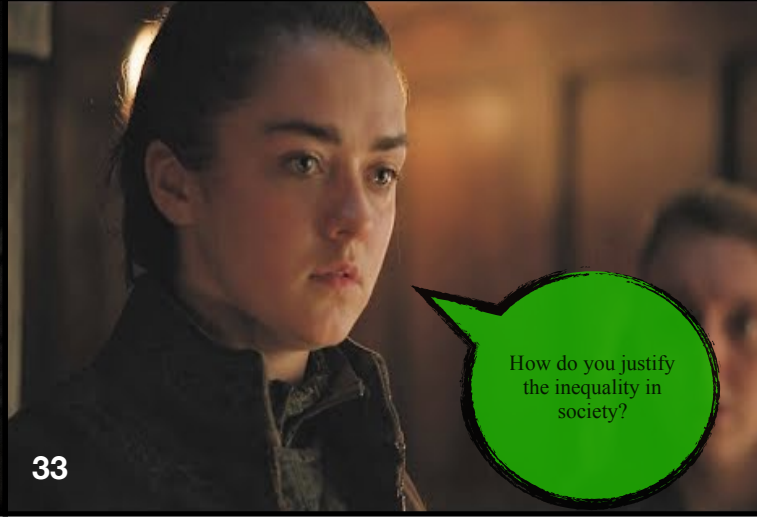
31



We would choose by keeping in mind that what if we end up being at the worst position in the society. By this way we can reach at a contract. This contract would provide equal basic liberties for all citizens. For instance, everyone would have freedom of religion and freedom of speech. In addition, although inequalities would still exist... yet, such inequalities would be for the benefit of the least advantage class that is the lower class of the society.



32



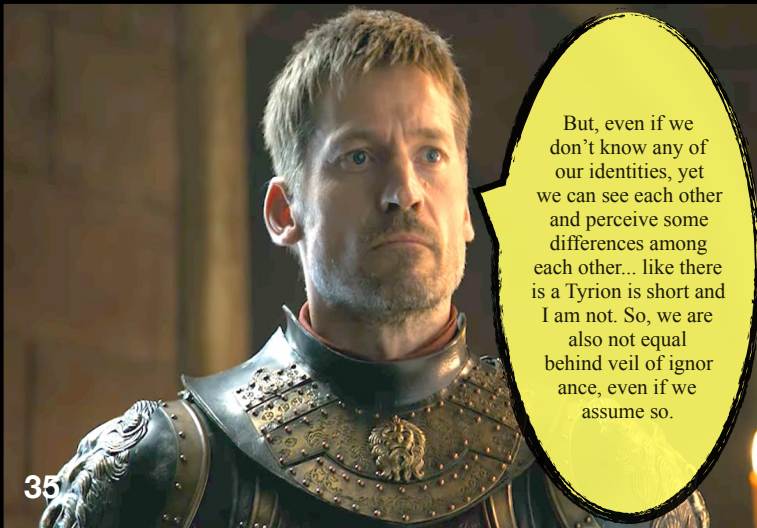
How do you justify the inequality in society?

33



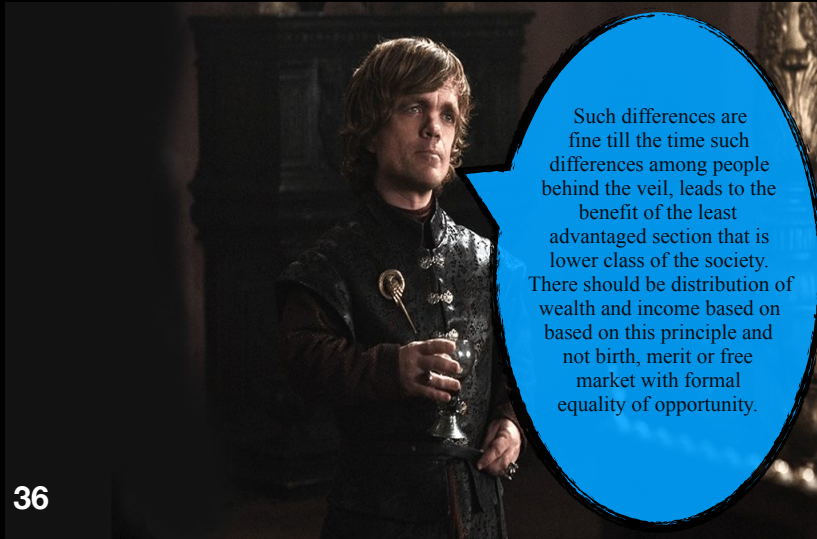
We, behind the veil of ignorance would be equal in terms of knowledge and power....

34



But, even if we don't know any of our identities, yet we can see each other and perceive some differences among each other... like there is a Tyrion is short and I am not. So, we are also not equal behind veil of ignorance, even if we assume so.

35



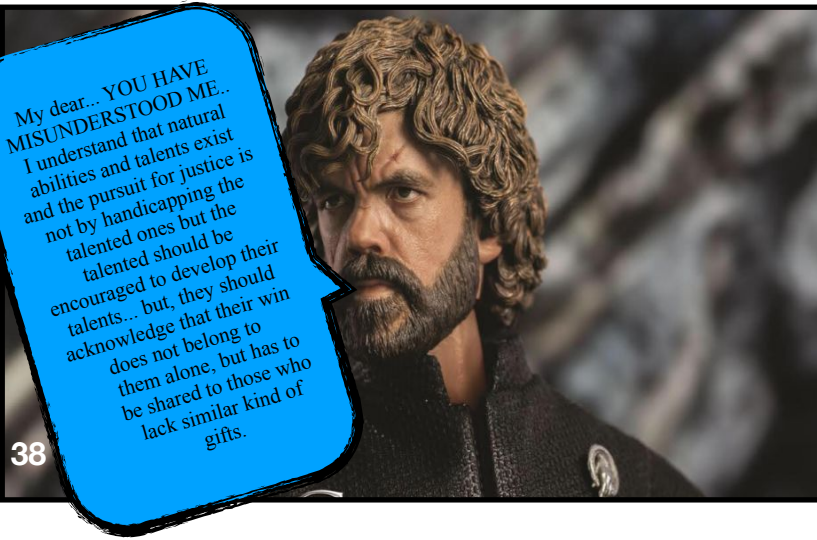
Such differences are fine till the time such differences among people behind the veil, leads to the benefit of the least advantaged section that is lower class of the society. There should be distribution of wealth and income based on based on this principle and not birth, merit or free market with formal equality of opportunity.

36



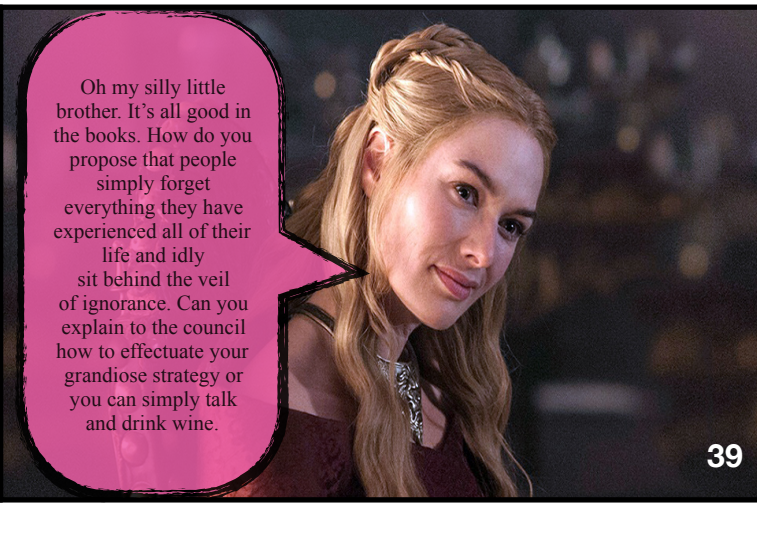
But is handicapping the talented correct to achieve the dream of equality.... Should an intelligent man undergo some scientific experiment to ensure that he is at par with others who have average intelligence?

37



My dear... YOU HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD ME... I understand that natural abilities and talents exist and the pursuit for justice is not by handicapping the talented ones but the talented should be encouraged to develop their talents... but, they should acknowledge that their win does not belong to them alone, but has to be shared to those who lack similar kind of gifts.

38



Oh my silly little brother. It's all good in the books. How do you propose that people simply forget everything they have experienced all of their life and idly sit behind the veil of ignorance. Can you explain to the council how to effectuate your grandiose strategy or you can simply talk and drink wine.

39

Everyone is amazed.....HOW???



Behold my council men. I may be less in height then you my cunning sister, but I am not naïve. And my friends, the wine itself is the solution.



41

I have mixed a **special solution** in all of your wine's. In a few minutes we all will forget all our past experience and we will be behind the veil of ignorance. And then we can make just laws which will ensure a just society.



42

Curtain Falls – The veil of Ignorance

And then the small council in Winterfell made laws behind the veil of ignorance and they prepare a document laying out foundation of laws for Winterfell.

MEMORANDUM

LAWS FOR WINTERFELL

1. Progressive taxation
2. Freedom of speech and expression
3. Freedom of religion

P.S.: Tryion Lannister (Rawls) had stated that contract made behind the veil of ignorance would provide for equal basic liberties and socio economic equality. These two principles are reflected in the memorandum.

SOURCES:

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d. Tyrion Lannister

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