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Titel: Virtue, Fortune, and Divine Intervention in Plutarch's *Aemilius – Timoleon*

Abstract: In the *Parallel Lives*, Plutarch is primarily interested in the moral qualities of his heroes and wants to contribute to the moral insight and character improvement of his readers. At the same time, he raises several fundamental philosophical questions in the various pairs of biographies. In *Aemilius – Timoleon*, the pair on which this paper focuses, the relationship between virtue and fortune is explored, as well as the role the deity plays in historical events. Aemilius is characterized as a paragon of virtue, and his career illustrates how good fortune is the corollary of virtue and how the bond between virtue and fortune is sanctioned by the deity. In such a philosophical perspective, the misfortune of the virtuous can only be attributed to divine νέμεσις, a traditional perspective that is very problematic within Plutarch's Platonic philosophy. In the *Life of Timoleon*, a different view is developed: Timoleon's success appears to be mainly based on good luck, although his virtue also plays a role and Plutarch ultimately evaluates Timoleon's achievements as the products of an ἀρετὴ εὐτυχούσα.

The working of chance as a combination of different chains of causes can be much better reconciled with a Platonic view of a providential God (as appears from parallels with Plutarch's *De sera numinis vindicta*). *Aemilius – Timoleon* thus contains an in-depth exploration of different ways to assess divine involvement in history.