

## An Aesthetic Reading of Aristotle's Ethics

What property is Aristotle advertent to when he uses the word *kalon*, as he so frequently does in his ethical writings? The word can mean "beautiful," but the leading translations of the *Nicomachean Ethics* instead use "fine" or "noble" rather than "beautiful." I will argue, however, that in some of the most important passages that use this word, *kalon* has aesthetic force, and that "beautiful" would therefore be the best translation. If this is right, Aristotle sees the beauty of ethical activity as one of the reasons for acting virtuously.