



Written by [Daniel Natal](#) on November 5, 2021

The Ring of Gyges

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In “The Republic,” Plato describes the ring of Gyges, which allegedly imparted invisibility. He recounts Socrates discussing with friends whether people would behave ethically if they were invisible. Melissa Lane talks about how, in mass society, people feel so small, so insignificant that it amounts to a sort of invisibility. Armed with this sense of anonymity, a certain subset of people will behave immorally. She calls this phenomenon negligibility. This presentation revolves around libertarianism and their embracing of negligibility as a pretext to normalize certain troubling behaviors.

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