

**Behavioral traits of the miserly character in
"The Ethical Characters" of Theophrastus and "The Miserly " of Al-
Jahez.**

A Comparative Study

Since creation of mankind, GOD created inside a person one normal psychology and another abnormal one. This is why we see man doing a commendable action and another repulsive one; similarly, he befriends and antagonizes, and loves and hates. Man has always like this for centuries before Aristotle attempted to explain the philosophy of this behavior in a logical way , and before Freud turned mans concepts and conceptions of himself upside down; For where did man acquire this behavior or that? Amidst all these ideas, conceptions emerged and opinions varied about the role of heredity and environment in determining the behavior of a person and his image that distinguishes him from others, or, as later defined "character of man". There is a proposition that man is the 'offspring of heredity and environment together'. He is the outcome of the interaction of a number of environmental factors with hereditary factors .

Many theorists of character agree on such definitions propounding that character is the sum of influential and constructive traits of the individual , what he reflects about himself in personal responses to situations , or the relatively constant dimensions of the individual that distinguish him from others and enable us to predict his individual actions. A number of psychology researches agree that any conspicuous behavior or action of a person must be distinctive of the person himself, and that this trait exposes itself in many situations,

which makes take more of the pattern by time and therefore become more distinctive of that person in particular.

In his poetics, Aristotle classifies the human race into tow types: the good or fine and the bad or lowly. This classification appears in a number of his works on the philosophy of ethics through his interest in applying the promise of the moderate (virtuous) on human behavior.

Theophrastus trace the behavioral traits of the 'Miserly' character where he portrays this character in three types: the Penurious Man, Parsimonious Man and the Miserly.

As for (Al-Jahez); he is brilliant at portraying characters and psychologies. Had he been acquainted with dramatic genres, his gift for creating dialogue and debates would have readily shown these. He stands unrivalled in description of physical movements and psychological feelings.

Thin paper is going to trace the behavioral traits of the 'Miserly' character in both Theophrastus and (Al-Jahez).