

Recommendations for Happy Living

Post by “Cassius” of November 20, 2021 at 2:52 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Of course, we assume that we have developed the wisdom to make choices that are ethical, and so we don't choose to do things that cause any pain or suffering to others.

One of the most challenging issues (ask Don! 😊) is that this wording itself probably has to be parsed, because there is no list if ethical vs non ethical to consult, and in the end Epicurus says there are no such lists. There's no guarantee that everyone feels pain when another person is harmed, and some in fact take pleasure in it in some circumstances. In the end much of the pain that can be expected to come from hurting other people depends on the circumstance that we can expect that others will punish us for that action, and if we have reason to expect that we will not be punished, that motivation will not exist.

All of which is not intended to invoke rabbit hunting, but to be a reminder that there are no supernatural forces lurking in the background to tell us what is ethical, or waiting to punish those who are unethical. Even back to Epicurus' time the majority thinks that such bright lines and supernatural forces do exist, so it's very interesting to think about how we should internalize and act on that knowledge.