

Nietzsche Channeling Epicurus "Never Losing One's Own Way," and How To Proceed With Philosophical Therapy

Post by "Cassius" of December 23, 2018 at 11:08 AM

Related thought: What would happen if the world were to all of a sudden agree with Nietzsche/Epicurus, and the entire world saw that "the goal is pleasure" and not false religions and ideals?

It seems to me that having common general goals is a first and necessary step in determining who your friends are. I know you are not suggesting it, but I also think we would be wrong to expect that everyone who shares the goal of "pleasure" is also going to be our "friend."

Since there is no single god or ideal structure enforcing a single view of what everyone is going to find pleasurable, we have to expect that different people and different groups are going to find different things to be pleasurable. We therefore have to anticipate that saying "the goal is pleasure" does not at once erase all conflict between all people.

I don't think anyone here is in danger of asserting that, but I can see confusion over the issue. To convince everyone in the world that "the goal is pleasure" would indeed be a great thing, and no doubt improve the general level of harmony. But at that level of abstraction "the goal is pleasure" and without explanation of the nature of how the faculty the pleasure works (such as we are discussing here), the proposition "the goal is pleasure" can appear to take on a form that is very close to an idealism of its own.

Individuals are individuals first, and in most every case (at least at birth, and until they are corrupted) their loyalty is to themselves and to their family and friends, and not to "humanity" as a whole. I have no doubt that if false ideas of religion and abstractions were shown to be false and were abandoned, then people would find it easier to understand each other. But to conclude from that observation that the lions would lie down with the lambs and that all would be peace and brotherly love is probably as false as any other kind of idealism.