

# Do Pigs Value Katastematic Pleasure? ( Summer 2022 K / K Discussion)

Post by "Cassius" of July 14, 2022 at 2:38 PM

[Quote from Nate](#)

require some type of energetic motion to instigate,

Yes Nate I agree with everything you wrote but / and I want to stress that in saying that I agree I am not saying that I disagree with anyone else. This is not a contest of sides between us here but a struggle to better define the full picture so we develop a more usable interpretation that will help ourselves and others.

Not one single person in this thread has chosen life in a cave with bread and water, because we know we are capable of much greater pleasure in life than that.

That's why we can't let the implication stand of any formulation that implies that "desire in general" is to be condemned or reduced - to what? The minimal required to continue breathing?

No one would suggest that in real life, and yet the formulations that are batted around not only "leave open that implication" (I am thinking of the phrasing Frances Wright used in the big debate between Zeno and Epicurus) - they not only leave open the implication of asceticism, they COMPEL it if "reducing the desires" is an accurate statement of the road to happiness.

Epicurus was a philosopher and he would never have embraced such a general rule as "The way to happiness is to reduce the desires" because the best way to "reduce the desires" .... (I will spare us another metaphor involving bullets!)

However that IS the explicit teaching of major worldviews that are out there, and I would label all Abrahamic religion (maybe is should just say monotheistic religion) as essentially guilty of the same mischief when they command you to replace YOUR desires with those of "God."

I am really glad that we are having this discussion because it's another variation of one of the key issues that prevents Epicurean philosophy from being understandable to "normal healthy people" (who we all need, even if we are like me rapidly approaching my expiration date :-). )