

Valueless Virtue in Modern Stoicism

Post by “Condorcet” of January 16, 2019 at 6:47 PM

Thanks very much Cassius! I can't always timely return to this wonderful site so please don't feel you have to respond immediately especially if you have had a long day.

C-Paragraph 2, I still think of this in terms...

Me - Right, well-said!

C- Paragraph 3, In the same way ...

Me - Yes and it's the human "aspect" I want to stay with for a minute. Brown's list of human universals labels hundreds of behaviors that define "human" experience more individually than "passions." Group formation is inevitable like the grouping around Epicureanism but individuals still express hundreds of common attributes independently of the group.
https://listography.com/ink/people/don...uman_universals

Still Brown's list is not complete, the brief preface to the list on the Listography site mentions some important human concepts that are omitted or understated. Nevertheless I think Brown's human universals help identify many of the "currents" in the river metaphor.

Continuing with the metaphor, I considered what the stream bed might be and I think it is "pleasure." Earlier I mentioned Maslow's theory, that the motivation for satisfying our needs is to "self-actualize." While Brown lists attributes Maslow lists needs; physiological, safety, belonging and love, social needs, esteem.

Maslow believed "self-actualization" is an inherent goal and psychological and emotional problems arise when that goal is thwarted when needs are unmet. Interestingly Maslow describes how self-actualized people are "strife-free".

While there is no specific order to satisfying needs, the physiological needs cannot be denied for very long. Perhaps satisfying needs has much to do with where the stream flows.

C - Paragraph 3 cont'd ...the river has banks...

Me -To me this passage suggests that our responses to our anticipations define our currents within the flow.

C - Paragraph 4, So at one and the same time...

Me - Yes and I see the "banks" in the metaphor as the people and institutions that constantly propose the false choices and create much of the "friction" preventing free flow.

C - Paragraph 4 cont'd ...We don't need to choose between radical libertarian individualism and totalitarian authority that suppresses all individual feeling.

Me - I agree although I don't understand most political labels ("libertarian", "neocon" etc), I do understand government labels like "totalitarian authority" !

C - There's always going to be some friction...wrong to totally take sides.

Me - Yes absolutely "wrong" and confusing and useless!

Thanks