

# The Ethics of Epicurus and its Relation to Contemporary Doctrines by Jean-Marie Guyau. Edited by Testa and Ansell-Pearson, translated by Testa

Post by "Pacatus" of May 7, 2023 at 1:38 PM

Added note:

I also think that we do well to understand that pleasures do not (necessarily, or even usually) come "single file" as it were - but can (and maybe mostly do) combine in ways to enhance each other in an overall experience. Then it would seem generally to be a misguided reductionism to try to separate and isolate each individual pleasure in some "utilitarian" quest to identify how many "utils" each one contributes.\*

I can be serene while robustly cheering on my favorite NBA team, while enjoying a quiet martini on our deck overlooking the lake, while enjoying a good meal or congenial conversation (even friendly debate). Each of those pleasurable experiences is made up of any number of pleasures - and *ataraxia/serenity*.

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\* This is not say that contemplating those individual pleasures might not be useful sometimes - but not, for me, as some kind of abacus-like hedonic "calculus."