

Pleasure vs pain - example and thoughts!

Post by "ThinkingCat" of May 20, 2023 at 4:02 AM

Here is a quote from Cassius which someone posted which is really helpful but it raised some questions in my mind:

Epicurus was into "pleasure" and that can come in many ways, simple and luxurious, and the trick is to manoeuvre through your personal context to focus on pleasures that do not cause you more pain than you are willing to experience for the sake of those pleasures.

I understand this and agree with it, it makes good sense but it got me thinking. People are willing to develop all kinds of what I would deem as unhealthy behaviours that give them pleasure but cause pain yet they would argue the pain is nominal and the pleasure gained outweighs it. I realise the key here is "what I would deem as" but I'll continue. For example, someone I work with likes to do cocaine 'on special occasions'. Before I go further, I don't drink or do any drugs, my stance is life is better without either but I realise there will be people who drink on this forum (or maybe do drugs?!) so I'm not here to start a war with you ☐☐☐

Anyway my colleague is willing to do cocaine and will go through the come down afterwards because he argue's that the pleasure outweighs the pain. Of course at some point, he might become addicted to cocaine so the pain factor would kick in then. But he argues that he doesn't have an addictive personality type and only does cocaine on special occasions. It could be argued in this scenario that he is being Epicurean?! Thoughts!