

Fundamental Issues In Hedonism

Post by "Eikadistes" of December 13, 2023 at 2:12 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

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NOTE: I had a philosopher friend, who did his dissertation on the Nicomachean Ethics, who insisted the best rendering of eudaimonia was "flourishing" -- but that strikes me as even more problematic than "happy."

Fully agree. "Flourishing" seems ... wrong? Merriam-Webster defines "flourishing" as "marked by vigorous and healthy growth; very active and successful."

Your "happy well-being" is better, for sure. I lean more in the direction of "satisfied well-being" or "contented well-being." To be even more literal, I might suggest "to be in good spirits," but that might be taking the linguistic pun too far.

It was impressed upon me (*by Peripatetics*) in college that "*flourishing*" was the *only* acceptable definition of εὐδαιμονία. One of the professors of the department described Aristotle as "the smartest person who ever lived." The department head was particularly fond of Alasdair MacIntyre and assigned us his writings.

I tend to take the word as meaning "*good-spirited-ness*", in which case, "*happiness*" is a reasonable translation.