The Normal Curve of Pleasure

Post by “kochiekoch” of July 22, 2024 at 8:47 PM

>>Can you do an actual diagram Steve ?<<

Nope, I'm not so techie.

Best I could come up with is the link to the diagram on the Wikipedia page:

(Give that a minute to load).

Standard deviation diagram - Normal distribution - Wikipedia

Imagine a common "Bell Curve". That's all it is.

>>Are you saying both the X and Y axis are labeled pleasure?<<

No. The horizontal or X axis would be labeled inputs, like food eaten, and the vertical, or Y axis would be labeled pleasure-diminishment of pain. How you feel eating the food and eventually overindulging in it. The very bottom of the curve, on either side, would be the maximum of pain, minimum of pleasure, and the top of the curve, would be the minimum of pain, maximum of pleasure.

It's something I like about this model. It predicts a maximum of pleasure at the top of the curve. Just like Epicurus.

Interestingly enough, an unnatural and unnecessary desire-pleasure would take off like a missile up the curve. Forever alternating between pain and pleasure but never reaching satisfaction at a peak. Going on to infinity, as Epicurus suggests. It describes the hedonic treadmill.

>>I was expecting pain to be on there somewhere so it would help to visualize this more precisely<<

Yeah, but you can see it's found only on the Y, or vertical axis. Pain diminishes going up the vertical axis, toward the peak, but increases post peak if inputs continue along the horizontal, or X axis.

LOL! You're pretty uncomfortable if you keep eating all the way to the bottom of the post peak curve!