

Article Link: "Beyond Selfishness - Epicurean Ethics in Nietzsche and Guyau"

Post by "Cassius" of April 26, 2018 at 9:08 AM

I haven't read all of this, but it appears to have some interesting material in it. Be forewarned, however, that it looks like the author can be expected to take the tiresome perspective that modern thinkers like Guyau / Bentham / Mill / Spencer were oh-so-much smarter than Epicurus and "corrected" Epicurus' errors.

For Guyau, the chief idea of the Epicurean doctrine is the ethical one: pleasure and pain are the sole forces that set being in motion and the sole levers by whose aid action is produced. Once this principle is posed, it is held that the most appropriate morality for each individual is the act of securing for oneself the greatest amount of personal pleasure, or what a certain utilitarianism might call 'the regularization of egoism'.¹¹ As Guyau notes, before Spinoza Hobbes attempted to construct a geometry of morals, Helvetius constructed a physic of morals, and d'Holbach a physiology of morals'.¹² Guyau regards Epicurean morality as resting on a confusion of fact and duty and sees the contemporary English school—Bentham, Stuart Mill, and Spencer—as providing the necessary corrective, so that instead of personal pleasure being the sole legitimate end of our moral being, it is also the pleasure of others that needs to concern us. This was to become a key component in

https://www.academia.edu/36453917/Beyon...zsche_and_Guyau