

Altruism

Post by “Cadmus” of May 30, 2021 at 1:50 PM

Epicureanism takes the stance of psychological egoism. All actions are motivated by the desire to decrease pain and maximize pleasure. Because we are social and empathetic creatures, the well being of others often means a lot to us. When someone dear to you is happy, you are happy too. This is the origin of "altruism" according to Epicureans afaik. Although true selflessness doesn't exist, one should hold the well being of others highly because we are social animals.

"I love men too — not merely individuals, but every one. But I love them with the consciousness of egoism; I love them because love makes me happy, I love because loving is natural to me, because it pleases me. I know no “commandment of love.” I have a fellow-feeling with every feeling being, and their torment torments, their refreshment refreshes me too." - Max Stirner