

The "One and the Many" Question - Do You Fancy You Have Found Treasure of Wisdom In This? Do You Puzzle Your Friends And Even Your Dog About It? What In the World Is Socrates Talking About?

Post by "Don" of October 24, 2021 at 1:54 PM

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An Epicurean dialogue may go:

Epicurus: Does this action you desire bring pleasure now?

Pythocles: Yes.

E: Then it is good. However, let me ask, Does this same action bring pain in the future?

P: Possibly.

E: Ah! Does the pleasure you would feel now outweigh the pain you will feel later?

P: The pain, I imagine, would be long-lived for my life

E: Then choose wisely with that in mind. Even though your action brings pleasure now, consider the goal is leading the most pleasurable life.

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Yes of course I agree that to be the practical conclusion.

Again unfortunately, we are faced with the problem that the overbearing established viewpoint starts before that point, and wants to question whether pleasure is in fact, or can in fact, be considered to be "the" legitimate goal or even "a" legitimate goal.

Plato and Aristotle and the rest cut their knees off at the earlier stage because through their logical arguments they convince people that they should not even consider pleasure to be "A" good, much less "the" good.

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Well, then, maybe the position is simply to assert "Forget Plato and Aristotle." They've constructed a Potemkin village of illusion and made you live it. Abandon all brainwashing and set sail in your own little boat