

# Hypotheticals: Would An Epicurean Hook Himself Up To An "Experience Machine" or a "Pleasure Machine"?

**Post by "SimonC" of January 8, 2022 at 8:43 AM**

I discussed this with my wife the other day. She said she would not use the experience machine because it would not be "real" which I think is a common viewpoint. I asked her if a person who believe that they are in a happy marriage but in fact are being cheated on is happy or not, and she agreed that such a person would in fact be happy. So it seems that the "reality" of the pleasure is not consistently taken into account in some peoples valuation.

My opinion on the experience machine is that if we accept that parameters of the thought experiment as given, that using the machine will IN FACT be more pleasurable than not doing so, an Epicurean should always use the machine.

@smoothiekiwi your argument seems to be "but it wouldn't be pleasurable because A, B, C" which is avoiding the thought experiment which states that using the machine is IN FACT more pleasurable than not doing so.

I think the thought experiment boils down to "have you considered that hedonism.... is HEDONISM?????" and relying on the other person to react "eww, hedonism". It is not a problem for a committed hedonist.

Other points of the experiment might be "most people living today are not committed hedonists", or "ascetics might judge hedonists severely", none of which are news.

Further there is empirical evidence against Nozick at this time since VR headsets now exist and are being used by people. Most people who use VR headsets would not think "but the things in the game are not REAL" or "you could do other things with your time" are valid arguments against using them. They use the headsets because they like it and that is all the justification needed.