

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

Post by "Don" of January 8, 2022 at 9:49 AM

[Quote from SimonC](#)

. 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

The wife in that scenario can only work with the evidence she has at hand. If the evidence to which she has access to gives her the impression she is in a happy marriage, that's not really an argument for or against the machine from my perspective.

[Quote from SimonC](#)

if we accept that parameters of the thought experiment as given, that using the machine

The parameters don't seem so cut and dried. Here is Nozick's excerpt: <https://rintintin.colorado.edu/~vancecd/phil3160/Nozick1.pdf>

I haven't had a chance to read the paper yet but am putting it here for reference.

[Quote from SimonC](#)

hedonism.... is HEDONISM????

Tautologies are rarely a discussion-ending slam dunk. I have no doubt the Cyrenaics would jump at the chance to plug in. I'm still not convinced the Epicureans would. And they're both classified as hedonistic schools.

[Quote from SimonC](#)

They use the headsets because they like it and that is all the justification needed.

But it's not an all or nothing proposition with VR although it could easily lead to addictive behaviors like anything else. Using something that gives a pleasurable experience for a time, I got no problem with. There are numerous substances and experiences that provide pleasure from time to time.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1494-hypotheticals-would-an-epicurean-hook-himself-up-to-an-experience-machine-or-a-p/?postID=15590#post15590>