

A thought on duty to the whole world, and why virtue must be an instrument to happiness.

Post by "Cassius" of January 15, 2022 at 5:59 PM

Well presented Smoothiekiwi. Another two examples that I often think of are local animal shelters and nursing homes. It's not even necessary to think about Africa. All you have to do is think about the fact that all of us have local animal shelters or nursing homes where nice animals and people are suffering and would be happy to have any attention we would be willing to give them.

And the costs to us of doing so would be minimal.

But yet, for the most part, none of us donate a minute of our time or a cent of our money to help suffering people or animals "right down the street."

I am not saying that these decisions not to help are to be condemned or praised - bit the point before the house is that if you let yourself think of these things too much you could pretty much destroy your own mental health.

The point of my writing this is that it seems clear to me that we have to come to terms with how to analyze these issues, and Epicurus' worldview seems to me the best way to make sense of it all and actually apply a philosophically sound analysis to the problem.