

Kungi's Natural and Necessary Discussion

Post by “reneliza” of August 2, 2022 at 1:26 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

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I don't think that you can draw a limit, I think the limit has to be inherent in some way. You're pursuing wealth - to what end? Your end will always (eventually) be pleasure (if not, then that's a bad sign), but do you have good reason to believe that the specific pursuit of wealth will end in net pleasure? Has it worked in the past? When will it pay off? What will happen next?

I like where you're going in this paragraph! What are the ends you're working toward? That has to be answered by someone "pursuing wealth." Wealth for wealth's sake is empty. Wealth for a specific pleasure or pleasurable goal could be something different. Although it could also be problematic if it's working for wealth only to be enjoyed decades from now and not finding any pleasure now. If I've misconstrued your intentions with those lines, just let me know.

That's definitely where I was going with that, although it may be worth clarifying what I meant by "eventually" which was less temporal (of course sometimes payoffs are not immediate, but I agree that it can be dangerous if there's no payoff immediately, especially if the long term payoff is particularly far off or otherwise uncertain) and more just a chain of reasoning. Like a kid asking "but why?" until you get frustrated and just admit "because it feels good!" Haha

For example:

Why are you accumulating wealth? To go on a vacation. Why do you want to go on a vacation? Because I've never seen the sunset over the ocean. Why do you want to see the sunset over the ocean? Because I expect it will be beautiful. Why do you want to see something beautiful? Just for the pleasure of it!!

If the goal is defined then it has its own limits, more or less, as to how much wealth you need to accumulate and how much effort should be put forth toward this goal based on the pleasure you'll get from it. Maybe you realize that "seeing a pretty sunset" can be accomplished with much less time, expense, and effort than the original trip to the nearest west coast assumed (but maybe not, and this is where it's always personal).

Sorry the conversation has drifted into goal setting which is a major discussion topic of mine so let me know if I get distracted by my own ideas and go too far afield from what's actually supported in Epicurean doctrine. This conversation is actually very helpful for me in my work

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2607-kungi-s-natural-and-necessary-discussion/?postID=19173#post19173>

(and life)! I think it's useful to consider pleasure, desire, and goals, and how they all relate