

PD19 And The Meaning Of No "Greater" Pleasure

Post by “reneliza” of August 13, 2022 at 8:33 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Is not boredom a pretty general human problem?

I'll have to push back on that statement. Boredom comes from dissatisfaction not lack of variety. Sometimes people looking for variety are running from something - possibly even an emotional trauma. They try to fill a void with novelty. I have a real problem if we start using boredom as a reason for varying pleasures.

[Quote from DavidN](#)

Two points to start with one to poke at Don, Wouldn't the Jefferson Bible count as an epicurean "job".

And to Cassius:

"The only horrible thing in the world is **ennui**, Dorian. That is the one sin for which there is no forgiveness." Oscar Wilde

"**Boredom** is therefore a vital problem for the moralist, since at least half the sins of mankind are caused by the fear of it." — Bertrand Russell

Otherwise I agree with the conclusions reached pertaining to PD's.

As a long time sufferer of ennui, I can assure you that variety doesn't solve it! (in other words - agreeing with Don's comment that boredom comes from dissatisfaction)

I do agree with Cassius's assertion that boredom is a general problem for humans, just not the conclusion that therefore variation is preferable/necessary. My best friend would eat nothing but chicken fingers and fries for the rest of her life (with a protein shake to round out her nutrition) and that would be peak pleasure for her. She'd always know exactly what was coming, no surprises, no meal planning or researching recipes.

In fact, there's been a lot of research recently about decision fatigue and how making many little decisions throughout the day like what to eat, what to wear, etc... can impact your ability to make good (read: leading to greatest overall pleasure) decisions by the end of the day. Greater variety is directly correlated to more decisions. Unless you just roll a d20 to pick which

shirt to wear, but that's still more mental effort than just grabbing one of the 10 identical black turtlenecks from your closet.

Of course, this doesn't mean that the ideal is to reduce your choices to zero, but just that you get the best overall outcomes by putting the majority of that effort toward things with the greatest payoff. For some people, that really is having a varied diet or wardrobe because those things bring you immense pleasure.