

PD19 And The Meaning Of No "Greater" Pleasure

Post by “reneliza” of August 24, 2022 at 1:40 PM

This conversation is also bringing to mind another common saying that I was going to post on the forum anyway, because I see some problems with it.

“Nothing in life worth having comes easy”

My thought is that Epicurus tells us literally the opposite. There are sometimes we will chose pain to find a greater pleasure (or avoid a greater pain) but in general the things we need come easy. I suspect this kind of saying representing the Protestant work ethic is actually problematic because it makes it seem like the good life is out of your grasp (for now at least - you just need to work harder!!) where for most of us it is within reach. We don't need to work harder, we just have to pluck it. I don't remember now where the “plucking” language came from but I do really like it.

(This isn't to downplay the difficulties of dealing with things like poverty or abuse, but increasing effort is rarely going to improve those situations anyway)

I'd love to hear other thoughts.