

Welcome Kungi!

Post by “Matteng” of August 29, 2022 at 9:45 AM

Hi, Welcome Kungi 😊 ,

I also come from the Stoic camp 😊

I think the Stoics get a problem when defining "Virtue". Between the lines you can read from them, that virtue is good because (tranquility, eudaimonia, harmony (other things like virtue itself).

But if you ask a Stoic directly, this response will come (virtue for virtue).

So I tried to find out what there is the core for them.

I´ve got: "Virtue is the rational and social thing which we should do."

Ok but what exactly is it ?

In a book from Donald Robertson ("Stoicism and Art of Happiness")there it goes a little bit deeper, the answer is: "The beneficial and honourable".

And there it ends.

And for their "indifferents" (preferred/dispreferred): Choosing according the natural value.

By the way pleasure & pain is for Stoics complete indifferent. (In the past I thought pleasure preferred and pain would be dispreferred).

So here is the danger, that someone else will teach you what is "natural" (and the Stoics were often wrong about that, like the church).

And so these Stoic teachers could use the abstraction and tell their students what is "natural, rational and social".

Like priest who define right/wrong and sin for their people.

And there is no natural limit in abstract objects.

Stoics & Epicureans could only come near each other when the "Beneficial&Honourable" would be equaled with "Pleasure".

(Pleasurable could also be fulfilling activities, character traits, personal values)

This would make sense, for example for health. The self-preservation is beneficial and pleasurable and threats to that are painful.

So I would ask a Stoic: Is there really a "virtue" which involves short and longterm pain and no pleasure. ? And is still a virtue ?

Maybe they would answer: Fulfilling your duty is important but brings maybe no pleasure.

->Response(If the duty isn't abstract but really important): So not fulfilling the duty would bring pain, so must be avoided. Fulfilling this duty is there a Pleasure, it removes disturbance in the soul.

Conclusion: The virtuous life = pleasant life and vice versa. If Pleasure and real value is bound with these virtues.