

# An Epicurean Study of Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics

Post by "Pacatus" of October 28, 2022 at 6:29 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

other than the debt a knife owes a whetstone.

Well put!

[Quote from Don](#)

That's one of the areas I'd say Epicurus disagreed with Aristotle. My reading of NE is that Aristotle didn't think you could call anyone "happy" - no one could be said to have "well-being" (eudaimonia) - until they had lived their entire life and were dead. "Oh, she lived a happy life." Epicurus taught that we can have eudaimonia here and now.

I agree. And I sometimes think the Stoics made that a kind of self-righteous pat on the back.

[Quote from Don](#)

I've posted elsewhere on this forum that I reject DeWitt's "Epicurus said life is the greatest good" assertion. I see no evidence for this in the extant texts, and, to me, DeWitt's evidence doesn't hold up to scrutiny.

Hmmm. I'll have to give DeWitt a more thorough scrutiny on this. Being alive certainly is an existential requirement for any telos -- albeit that is likely a trivial parsing ...

[Quote from Don](#)

Now, pass me that popcorn and hand me a beer

With pleasure, my friend! 😊