

Is the Natural and Necessary Question Objective or Subjective?

Post by "Don" of November 21, 2022 at 4:28 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

There are "objective" facts of nature which we have to take into account in deciding how to live, such facts including:

No supernatural beings exist.

No consciousness / life / reward / punishment after death

No guidance from Nature as to what to choose or avoid other than (very broadly stated) the feelings of pleasure and pain.

No Platonic forms or Aristotelian essences or absolute virtue / right / wrong exist in the abstract that apply to everyone all the time and in all circumstances. ("Yellow" does not have an eternal unchanging existence apart from "things that are yellow.")

I would say that these can/should also be understood as necessary components of a pleasurable life, especially 1 and 2 as *really* understanding these leads to freedom from anxiety about god's judgment, punishment after death, fear of death, etc. Without that freedom from anxiety and fear, one can't have "subjective well-being."

Also, upon further reflection on the necessity of friendship: it seems to me that Aristotle was focused on the individual's place in the polis and one, he believed, couldn't truly achieve well-being outside that context. Epicurus, on the other hand, saw the individual's well-being as most important but that well-being was supported - flourished - by a community of friends that one could rely on. One was still a member of one's city-state and took part in the city's festivals but one's close circle of friends is what provided the most security.