

Is pleasure as the natural goal of life falsifiable?

Post by “waterholic” of December 8, 2022 at 9:17 AM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

Nature’s own unbiased and honest judgment leads every living thing to do this from birth, and it continues to do this as long as it remains uncorrupted. Epicurus refuses to admit any need for discussion to prove that pleasure is to be desired and pain is to be avoided, because these facts, he thinks, are perceived by the senses, in the same way that fire is hot, snow is white, and honey is sweet. None of these things need be proved by elaborate argument — it is enough merely to draw attention to them.

Thank you [Joshua](#) , a very interesting paragraph. The part "Nature's own ...judgement" from my vantage point refers to evolution, meaning we are just naturally built that way. But we are also naturally built to care for children, family, animals, and often at detriment to ourselves.

Trying to unpack (**and please correct my thinking here**) - in the process of evolution my species (as it is now) survived out of all possible random variations due to the balance it strikes in its design between caring for others and caring for self. This is not a devine intervention or a sign of superiority of humans. It's just a fact of evolution that our particular balance between selfishness and altruism happens to produce a more survivable species.

What this implies is that I am designed in a way that this balance is a natural state for me. In a simple example, if I am about to die, have only 3 minutes left and have an option for a great pleasure at the cost of great pain (possibly life) of another, it would be consistent with the Epicurean pleasure/pain calculus to forego the pleasure, because in those minutes the knowledge of harm to another would cause us pain. Why? Because we are built that way and we don't need virtue, belief in afterlife punishment or diety to act that way.

Any thoughts?