

Welcome Quiesco!

Post by "Quiesco" of April 8, 2023 at 3:14 PM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

[Quote from Cassius](#)

That's probably a question a lot of people should think about.

Definitely! Some of the most rewarding experiences of my life have been some of the most "risky." A couple have even scared the wits out of me but, in retrospect, changed my life for the better.

In a similar vein, here's a list of some risky behaviors:

- driving a car, riding public transit
- asking someone out on a date for the first time
- applying for a job that you really want
- having sex
- getting married
- having a child
- going for a hike
- zip-lining 😊 [Martin](#)
- trying a new food
- adopting a new philosophy
- swimming in the ocean
- skiing or snowboarding
- &c

This also leads to thinking about the "absence of pain" interpretation of EP....

Display More

Quite an interesting list! Would you take public transport over a car if it's available, considering it's safer than driving a car?

Some like trying a new food are pretty low risk in that regard since, if you don't like it, the pain would be short-lasting and not that intense, whereas the reward could be very high. Like listening to a new song or watching a movie you've never seen.

Then there's all the stuff that could end in pain due to sickness or an accident or even death, like hiking, swimming in the ocean, skiing/snowboarding, zip-lining, pregnancy, even sex I suppose! There's quite a difference between the amount of risk between these one.

And then we have that which could cause mental pain, like choosing to bind ourselves to another person through marriage, having a child, applying for a job or asking someone out. This one is quite hard to me because I think we can often strongly influence our view on certain issues and the pain they cause us. Take applying for your dream job as an example, I think you can reduce or remove the mental pain by accepting you don't have that job and you might not get it and still trying anyway. But another big factor in mental pain is longing for something you do not have. Maybe you start to crave for a type of food or job, affection from your partner or for your child to act a certain way. In that sense there's lots of mental pain to be had if you do not feel content without these.

The only one I found quite hard to determine was adopting a new philosophy. I suppose that the choice of whether to live according to a philosophy would have to be taken by the same pleasure principle as well. Would holding on to the old philosophy and living a life of ignorance be painful, or lead to you making decisions that cause more pain? Or would the pain after adopting it be greater, perhaps due to being ostracized? I suppose it depends on your surroundings whether it is a risk or not. I think for many people, where I live at least, it would not really be a risk.

Anyway, I'm gonna continue reading Epicurus and His Philosophy now. 😄