

External "Goods" Impact Eudaimonia

Post by "Don" of March 9, 2024 at 3:40 PM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

"Happiness" is not incorrect

Well put! It brings to mind people saying "You're not wrong, but..." Thanks.

Here's the Liddell & Scott definition of eudaimonia:

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...4.0057:entry=eu>daimoni/a

A translation of Herodotus uses "prosperity" for eudaimonia in one place, but "happiness" is used in the translation of the story of Croesus (same word, two different translations):

Thus Solon granted second place in happiness (εὐδαιμονίης) to these men. Croesus was vexed and said, "My Athenian guest, do you so much despise our happiness (εὐδαιμονίη) that you do not even make us worth as much as common men?"

A translation of Thucydides uses "wealth" for eudaimonia:

[5] For of all the nations of Europe that lie between the Ionian Gulf and the Euxine Sea, it was, for revenue of money and other wealth (καὶ τῆ ἄλλῃ εὐδαιμονίᾳ), the mightiest; though indeed for strength of an army and multitudes of soldiers, the same be far short of the Scythians.

So, there is a dimension of satisfaction, prosperity, being well off, having a sense of satisfaction, that isn't encompassed in "happiness." As Bryan says, "happiness isn't wrong..."