

External "Goods" Impact Eudaimonia

Post by "Don" of March 10, 2024 at 10:44 AM

Again, sorry for derailing this thread. The big picture takeaway I'm encouraging everyone to consider is this:

When we read:

"You must study and meditate upon that which produces **eudaimonia/happiness**. For if indeed that is present, we have everything; if that is not present, we do anything to have it." (*Menoikeus* 122)

We have a current, contemporary idea of what "happiness" means, and eudaimonia doesn't *really* mean anything to us. Words have meanings, but those meanings are not static. They evolve. Did Jefferson mean the same thing we mean when he penned "pursuit of happiness"? No, not really... But are they related? Sure? Maybe? But not exactly. I'm advocating we know what we mean - what we all mean and agree to - before we assume we're all talking about the same thing. Epicurus advocated use of the ordinary or common usage... But we have to know what those ordinary and common usages of words were *at the time* the texts were being composed.