

Is 'happiness' a proper translation of the term eudaimonia?

Post by "Don" of March 25, 2024 at 7:38 AM

I agree "happiness" is not an adequate translation of εὐδαιμονία eudaimonia. However, I also do not like "flourishing" as a translation of eudaimonia.

Flourishing is primarily defined as (Merriam-Webster) "marked by vigorous and healthy growth" (a flourishing garden); "very active and successful."

I could maybe accept it if one goes with the sense of "successful" as in "having attained a desired end or state of good fortune" but I don't normally get that sense from "flourishing." To me, that definition is better attached to "well-being" "the state of doing well especially in relation to one's happiness or success"

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[Well-being - Wikipedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org

I also like "well-being" because it wordplays off of eudaimonia itself: eu "well" + daimon "a being/god/deity".

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3768-is-happiness-a-proper-translation-of-the-term-eudaimonia/?postID=29785#post29785>