

The Axiology of Pain and Pleasure (are they intrinsic good/bad ?)

Post by “Little Rocker” of June 6, 2024 at 1:44 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

And perhaps everything is referred back to its over-all affect: do whatever you want if it does not cause you undue physical pain and mental distress (and also keeping to that which is just and prudent concerning others).

Yeah, that's the way I think about it--'harmless pleasures' are permitted, when the harm you must avoid concerns others. It seems to me that 'harmless' can include risk and some measure of pain for oneself, so long as it promises or even just might provide an especially exquisite pleasure.

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

And what would the astronauts ponder in such a situation...would they think well at least this will hopefully build on the future knowledge for the space program (as a benefit for future humanity, so that their death was not in vain) or perhaps they too could say to themselves "I've had a good run".

I suppose probably both, but I guess the reason I prefer 'I've had a good run' is that you can say it even if everything fails--if nothing is learned, if no one remembers you did it. It's like the pleasure of the activity is enough without success. That sometimes strikes me as one of the coolest things about Epicurus--pleasure isn't required to produce anything to justify itself. And if you think it does have to produce something, then the pleasure might lose a touch of its luster.

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Perhaps time to look into wilderness gun use for self-defense against wild animals? (or could you have on hand a stun gun as a last resort?)...just thinking about what kind of options to increase safety amongst wolves and bears.

Ha, yes! I do carry bear spray with me everywhere I go, which is actually more effective than a gun (and a lot lighter than any gun that would take out a bear). That wolf definitely was not interested in me. The most important thing was not getting run over!