

Choice & Avoidance: towards a better translation for avoidance

Post by “Cassius” of August 17, 2024 at 10:56 AM

[Quote from Julia](#)

People who do not commit are aimless and flakey.

That is the sense in which I use the word "commit" and "commitment" too. While Kalosyni is correct that it *can* involve improper views of duty and obligations asserted by false abstractions, its more important meaning (to me, and I would wager to be one of the most generally-used definitions, unless you're specifically talking about sending a crazy person to an asylum, a criminal to prison, or signing a contract) is more like:

an intense emotional drive voluntarily undertaken toward the achievement of some specified and desired goal.

I would not let Stoics or Buddhists or anyone else abscond with the perfectly valid word like "commitment" as if it only arises through "duty." To accept that would be akin to buying into the idea that all intense emotional drive is somehow tainted. Epicurus said that the wise man will feel his emotions MORE intensely than others.