

Comparing The Pleasure of A Great Physicist Making A Discovery To The Pleasure of A Lion Eating A Lamb

Post by “Adrastus” of September 4, 2025 at 6:36 AM

I also wonder, per [Martin](#) 's excellent comment, how and in what way a physicist or anyone achieving something grand intellectually, experiences pleasure. I have had obviously much lesser experiences of pride and fame and more distinct understanding of what I did as not particularly laudable; but I personally dismissed most of that mild 'lauding' of "achievement" unless it came from specific people I actually yearned for other deeper emotional needs from. An attaboy coming from a stranger or an acquaintance or even Friend means less to me than that coming from the family member I always wanted to feel connected to or wanted approval from.

Can we truly recommend pleasures of "self-actualizing" or "achievement" if we do not have some model such as Maslow's Hierachy of Needs, where lower levels of needs are already deeply felt and secured? I generally tend to associate the sentiments towards even mild fame and notoriety with a distinctly lesser quality than more "basely" human needs and desires; like a well prepared meal, perhaps even given the time to be foraged, grown or hunted, with the best of Friendly company. And I think that bears out well in Epicurean thought and other ancient "hedonic" thought like in Yang Chu who speaks ill even of grand funerary rites.