

What Would An Epicurean Use In Their Toolkit For Making Their Hedonic Calculus?

Post by "Godfrey" of July 11, 2019 at 12:57 AM

Wouldn't it just be net pleasure minus net pain? I use natural and necessary or unnecessary as a first step to evaluate a given desire, then I think about whether the various costs involved (pain) will add up to more or less than the resultant pleasure.

Pains to weigh include for example money (working overtime to earn extra money, spending savings, etc); prudent use of my time; prudent use of my energy; the effects on people and things that are important to me, and how that would affect my net pleasure.

The quote that I keep in mind is:

Ask this question of every desire: what will happen to me if the object of desire is achieved, and what if not? [VS71](#)

There was a recent thread that had a really good example. I'll try to find it....