

# Is There A "Paradox of Hedonism"?

Post by "LAMAR\_44" of April 6, 2026 at 12:22 AM

I've heard of emergence before, particularly in debates about how the mind arises from the physical. When describing emergence, are you referring to weak/reductive emergence? Where we can map a phenomenon down to its constituent parts, such as a wave being reducible to the location of each water molecule, or are you referring to strong emergence? Something that can't just be thought of as the sum of its parts but something greater? Like the mind being created by the brain but being above it in a way where you can't reduce the mind to each neuron in the brain?

So friendship is defined as pleasure created when two or more beings cooperate, as it benefits all parties in fulfilling their own needs, but it emerges into something greater? Either weak emergence where we still map it onto satisfying personal pleasure, but we gain pleasure from viewing the other person's needs as our own, or is it strong emergence where as the value of friendship now is above just the value of pleasure?