

PD 25 meaning? by Woolf (2004)

Post by “Don” of May 10, 2026 at 10:13 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I don't see how that is compatible with implying that everything everyone does is "necessarily" because they see it as leading to greater pleasure for them.

I don't think people need to consciously see all their actions as "leading to greater pleasure for them." It's a fact, as far as I'm concerned. Pleasure is the telos, summum bonum, the end to which all actions and decisions ultimately end. This PD is asking us to acknowledge that fact. It's not like we need to subject every miniscule decision to a hedonic calculus. We can lie to ourselves and try to convince ourselves that "I'm doing this to be virtuous / wise / altruistic / etc." but we're always always trying to lead our lives to greater pleasure for ourselves and away from pain. We can have ideas that lead us astray that try to convince ourselves we're leading our life to greater pleasure, but it's still a lie.

I'm also seeing other translations use reasoning and rationalization even creed: *"If at any time you fail to refer each of your acts to nature's standard, and turn off instead in some other direction when making a choice to avoid or pursue, your actions will not be consistent with your creed."* Strodach (2012)

That seems more in line with my interpretation.