

# Pleasure vs Happiness (?) Discussion of Hiram's "In Defense of Eudaimonia"

Post by "Elli" of October 20, 2019 at 1:40 PM

I've been stuck to the word [daemon] that in this article is translated as "spirit". And then, maybe we will invoke the spirit of the great Pan or Zeus to save us in despair? What a tangle, sorry but I do not agree with all these. Our philosophy is not spiritual. It is physical, since it starts from the body and ends to the body that is sacred for Epicurus as the soul and body is one and the same thing.

For this Epicurus declares in this important saying that includes the greek word "eudeamonia" :

XXXIII.(33) Σαρκὸς φωνῇ τὸ μὴ πεινῆν, τὸ μὴ διψῆν, τὸ μὴ ῥίγουν ταύτ᾽ ἀλλ' ἔχων τις καὶ ἐλπίζων ἔξειν κἂν <Διὶ> ὑπὲρ εὐδαιμονίας μαχέσαιο.

**The flesh cries out to be saved from hunger, thirst, and cold. For if a man possess this safety and hope to possess it, he might rival even Zeus in eudaemonia.**

A real hope to possess the safety gives us also the friendship that when we will be in a great need our trusted friends will help us, as we help them in the same way through self-sufficiency which means **generosity**.

Since the basis and the first principles of friendship is the common benefit that leads the friends to the goal of "ἡδέως ζην» [hdeos zin] which means = **living pleasantly** and not to the "εὐ ζην» [eu zin] that means = **living well**.

Living well with the meaning of prosperity and flourishing are Aristotelean terms that are connected to political and economical definitions that we see with our own eyes where they led and still lead us. And of course, eudaemonia for Aristotle has the virtue as the goal, and above all the contemplation of God. But for us, the epicureans, virtue is not the goal is just a mean, and the contemplation of God is an issue for the querulous old women.

How many times we from those "epicurean circles" will declare all these ? I do not know. Do we use the Canon to realize that there is no any "happiness calculation" but **the hedonic calculation** with which a natural human being measures among natural main feelings **pleasure** and **pain** to lead to the positive of pleasure ? Finally, please when you use greek words, you have to go and be in consistency of the Epicurean **Canon** <==> **Ethics** <==> **Physics**.

απ. 116 ἐν τῇ πρὸς Ἀνάρχον ἐπιστολῇ ταυτὶ γέγραφεν (Ἐπίκουρος): ἐγὼ δ' ἐφ' ἡδονὰς συνεχῆς παρακαλῶ καὶ οὐκ ἐπ' ἀρετᾶς, κενὰς καὶ ματαίας καὶ ταραχώδεις ἐχούσας τῶν καρπῶν τὰς ἐλπίδας.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1233-pleasure-vs-happiness-discussion-of-hiram-in-defense-of-eudaimonia/?postID=1948#post1948>

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush"



