

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

Post by "Todd" of October 20, 2019 at 7:16 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

The ultimate issue in this discussion, as I see it, is the polemical issue

Well...

Here is a case where the situation is actually in our favor! Our understanding of happiness is actually very close to that of the average person.

We should be seizing that opportunity, and I feel like at least the title of Hiram's article is exactly on the right track there.

It's Stoicism, which despite its current (and hopefully fleeting) popularity, is at a disadvantage. Stoicism seems appealing, until you find out that this thing they call happiness, really isn't what you had in mind at all!

"Wait. Happiness is Virtue??? WTF?!?! Hey, I heard the Epicureans had some different ideas. (Thank you, Seneca!!!) Maybe I should check them out..."



Additional thoughts I'm having on this topic:

I can't help but think of Stoicism as the gateway drug to Epicureanism.

"Stoicism: Suffering is a Virtue. Happiness consists in Virtue. Therefore, Suffering = Happiness. Got it?"

The problem of leading with pleasure in our marketing efforts is that we've been so conditioned to think of pleasure as a vice, that there are many people it's just not going to appeal to. But everyone wants to be happy.

I'm not at all trying to suggest that we should de-emphasize pleasure. More like, "Want to be happy? Try Pleasure."