

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

Post by "Elayne" of October 20, 2019 at 8:00 PM

Although I was not around in ancient Greece, from reading, it sounds to me like things were similar to the current situation with the word happiness in English. If you say the word "what is happiness?" to an ordinary person, they will have a feeling instantly, of pleasure. I have tried it, and people instantly smile. It is not whatsoever an abstract thing.

It's only idealists today who try to define away happiness into something confusing that doesn't mean pleasure. This leads to ridiculous articles with titles like "If you want to be happy, don't seek pleasure"-- and I always want to know, ok, please tell me how this happiness you talk about feels? Is it nice? Why do I want it? Isn't not seeking something in order to get it actually still a way to seek it, lol? Sometimes they have good specific advice, but the title should be "If you want a happy live, choose wisely, because some actions turn out more painful than pleasurable."

Anyway, if I had to put money on it, I would bet my condo that things were the same then. I betcha normal people knew perfectly well what eudaimonia was, and pleasure-- by their feelings.

Sometimes I wonder if the idealists go this direction because they don't really experience much pleasure in life? But that's a different issue.