

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

Post by "Elayne" of October 21, 2019 at 9:12 AM

Well, Hiram, your first inclination was to arrive at Aristotle's definition, and it sounds like you used his methods as well, the logical ones. Whereas the instant feeling an ordinary person gets from the words happiness and eudaimonia (as Elli has assured us strongly) is pleasure. Ask a regular person "what does happy mean?" and unless they are depressed, they will smile--their face will show their meaning even more than their words. They do not have to go figuring out the root words to get a meaning.

So this was aimed at us, you have confirmed it. Hiram, how on earth could you misunderstand Epicurus on eudaimonia and choose Aristotle instead? I am sad. Wow. If this is aimed at us, you have completely mischaracterized both Epicurus AND our group.

Unlike you and Alex, we have attempted not to get into the "mean boys and girls" of philosophy mode and have avoided issuing personal criticisms. Our beef is on the philosophy itself, and that people who are learning are being misled.

With Alex, it was that he repeatedly violated our rules, was rude, and had been given multiple direct warnings, including on the day he was finally removed. He was behaving in a way which was malicious towards the goals of our group, which we had published in a clear way. It made us sad that he did this and that we had to remove him. It was not out of anger or personality. I had not planned to air that publicly, but you have done so now. The quotes you made from him at the end of your article? I agree with fully. But that is not whatsoever the type of thing he was posting. He wasn't even using Aristotle's definition of happiness. He was arguing that it is possible to remove pain and not have pleasure, repeatedly, despite having had this explained to him and having been asked to stop. At a certain point, that becomes unacceptable, and he crossed the line.

Hiram, I do not go on your webpage and debate with you. You have your perspective. We are trying to accomplish something here that is different.