

Discussion of the Society of Epicurus' 20 Tenets of 12/21/19

Post by "Cassius" of January 9, 2020 at 8:55 AM

Shall we relate this back to another part of the discussion? I think lots of people, me included, would be willing to strap ourselves on top of what is essentially a bomb waiting to go off, knowing that we quite likely will die rather than return, so we could fly to the moon, or mars, or venus, or outside the solar system looking to see what's there, and maybe meet other life, even if they aren't gods. Exploration is a great pleasure to a certain type of people, and that type of person happily risks life for the pleasure of finding out what is there.

And I think Epicurus would totally approve of that, even though some people will argue that Epicurus was saying that should always choose the longer pleasure over the shorter one.

That was my problem with item 16 of this list as we originally started this thread. I would submit that Epicurus would hold that "Over the long term" is only one consideration, and it is not an overriding consideration, in making choices and avoidances:

16. Choices and avoidances are carried out successfully (that is, producing pleasure as the final product) if we measure advantages/pleasures versus disadvantages/pains over the long term. This means that we may sometimes defer pleasure in order to avoid greater pains, or choose temporary disadvantage, but only and always for the sake of a greater advantage or pleasure later.