

# Consequentialism & Moral Relativism within the context of Pleasure-filled Philosophy

Post by “Elayne” of March 13, 2020 at 10:59 PM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

It's early in the morning and i don't have time to continue but i think in Eugenios' post THIS part will bear further elaboration:

## [Quote from Eugenios](#)

We REALLY have to define what we mean by "living pleurably" I think. Almost by definition, someone who derives "pleasure" - and I deliberately put that in quotes - from their heinous crimes isn't living pleurably by almost any rational societal understanding

Eugenios, we must remember pleasure is strictly a feeling, not a rational understanding that we define. It isn't defined other than by the feeling itself. So not only don't we need to define it further, doing so would be counter to Epicurean philosophy. We all know what the feeling is.

Some people will have pleasure in activities that most of us would abhor. We share most of our genomes-- it shouldn't surprise us that humans agree on many pleasures and pains. We aren't clones, though, and we have unique life experiences, so we'll also have some differences in pleasure.

Because there is no absolute standard of what "should" bring pleasure, only the person having the feeling knows if they are living pleurably or not. Pleasure cannot be measured from the outside, only subjectively.

To my mind, Epicurus was speaking of a normal, typical person, who would live in fear of being caught (and I would add for myself, in dread of the grief due to empathy for whoever I harmed).

A sociopath often does not experience the same kinds of worries we would, and certainly not empathy/remorse. If sociopaths get pleasure from acts that harm us, it's real pleasure for them. Some of them do get away with it in the long run and have pleasurable lives hurting others.

There is nothing about this philosophy that says the pleasures of people won't come into opposition. It's not a philosophy that will cause every person to adhere to the same practices.

But because we care about our pleasure, we would be wise to do our best to avoid dealing with sociopaths and if necessary, we can attempt to restrain them. If we structure things wisely, we can increase the chance that a budding sociopath would realize a benefit from not murdering, etc.

As a side note, sociopaths appear to respond to rewards more than punishment. Punishment is not a highly effective deterrent for them, partly due to typically high impulsivity.. If they see a path to pleasure that involves following laws, they do sometimes take it.