

# An Exchange with Haris Dimitriadis on Pleasure vs Ataraxia

Post by “Eikadistes” of May 5, 2020 at 8:33 PM

Recently, I've come to think of this like the weather forecast:

Is a "good day" a day that *isn't rainy*? Or is a "good day" a day that is *positively sunny*?

... and what's the difference, anyway?

Is Partly Cloudy not also Partly Sunny?

Similarly, does not the absence of pain and suffering indicate the presence of pleasure? I think it must.

There's definitely a danger of mistaking "ethical egoism" or "ethical hedonism" as being quiescent and withdrawn due to the implication that anything defined as "ethical" is necessarily reminiscent of a meditating Buddha, or a passive guru, or a stoic priest. I think this is what leads people to automatically assume that Epicurus wanted "painlessness" rather than "pleasure-fulness", or why he'd prefer "a sky without clouds" rather than a "sunny day". Not because there is any physical difference, but because they are afraid of embracing pleasure, and use the first one as a euphemism for what's really going on.