

Nietzsche's Positive References to Pleasure

Post by “Cassius” of April 27, 2018 at 6:58 PM

"An action prompted by the life-instinct proves that it is a right action by the amount of pleasure that goes with it: and yet that Nihilist, with his bowels of Christian dogmatism, regarded pleasure as an objection... What destroys a man more quickly than to work, think and feel without inner necessity, without any deep personal desire, without pleasure—as a mere automaton of duty? That is the recipe for decadence, and no less for idiocy..." [Referring to Kant, but is the basic point not fundamentally Epicurean?]

Nietzsche, Antichrist, 11 - <http://4umi.com/nietzsche/antichrist/11>

Post by “Hiram” of May 4, 2018 at 2:36 PM

I see a connection between Epicurus' dethroning of Reason (Athena) by Pleasure / Nature (Aphrodite) and Nietzsche's balancing of Apollonian and Dionysian qualities. Nietzsche gave huge importance to INSTINCT and GUTS as a source of meaning and as a manner of philosophizing.

But we haven't really delved too much into the Dionysian theme in the Epicurean group. It would imply a willingness to engage in ritual, and in play, and in dance, and other activities that are pleasurable ways of creating values.