

HEDONISM

The pursuit of pleasure



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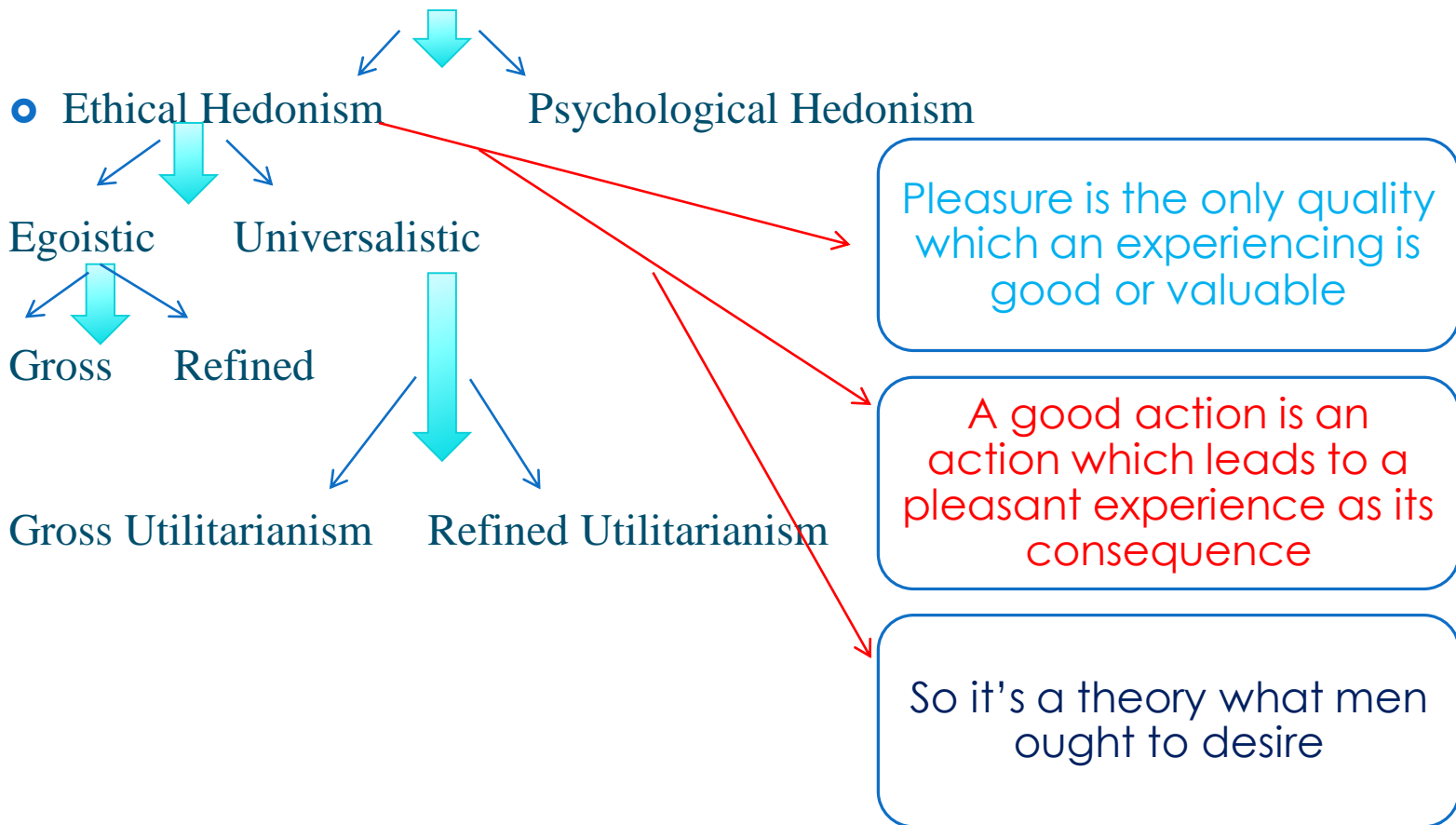
INTRODUCTION

- ✓ Pleasure is the ultimate standard of human life.
- ✓ It derives from the Greek term “delight”
- ✓ hedone “pleasure” + ism = HEDONISM
- ✓ It argues that pleasure is the intrinsic good that human being only requires.
- ✓ In mind the feelings of pleasure occurs in different situations.
- ✓ It focuses on minimum pain and maximum pleasure.
- ✓ Hedonist is regarded as a person who is devoted the life to seek pleasure and self gratification
- ✓ It implicates happiness, satisfaction as well as enjoyment.
- ✓ It claims that good life and good living contains lots of enjoyment through every part of life.

HEDONISM: THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE

- Hedone stands for pleasure and it is the supreme end of life.

Pleasure comes in mind in various condition



Psychological Hedonism

- The motive and also the aim of human action is only pleasure.
- A human being always avoid pain and every time seeks pleasure.
- Every individual seeking of pleasure is different.
- This theory aims that the continuous pursuit of a human being is nothing but pleasure.
- It is regarded as a description as what kind of happiness is present in our mind.

Criticism

- The word “pleasure” is an ambiguous term.
- When a being perform action under stress it can not be regarded as pleasurable action.
- It fails to distinguish between “pleasure in idea” and the “actual pleasure”.
- It give importance to pleasure over the satisfaction of want

Jeremy Bentham *Utilitarianism*

- ❖ One should perform the act that produces the greatest all those happiness only quantitatively.
- ❖ The Greatest good for greatest number. All Pleasures physical and mental are alike in nature and the value of pleasure consists entirely in the quantity of agreeable experiences that it produces.
- ❖ Quantity is the only standard for the valuation of pleasure. It has seven dimension of value.

Bentham Hedonistic Calculus

1. Intensity: How strong is the pleasure?
2. Duration: How long will the pleasure last?
3. Certainty or uncertainty: How likely or unlikely is it that the pleasure will occur?
4. Propinquity or remoteness: How near or far in space and time is it?
5. Fecundity: How likely is it to produce other pleasures?
6. Purity: How unmixed with pain is it?
7. Extent: How many people experience the pleasure.

This had special status as the last part of the "greatest good for the greatest number" formula.

- Bentham position may also be called Altruism because he takes into account the extent or the number of persons affected by the given pleasure.
- Bentham explain this transition from egoism to altruism into his hedonistic doctrine or frame work. This transition from egoism to altruism by means of four external sanctions
 - i. Physical sanction: life, health, bodily growth. If disobey will lead to painful consequences .
 - ii. Social sanction: social relationship
 - iii. Political sanction; disobeyed bring punishment
 - iv. Religious sanction; fear of punishment and reward of heaven Passes egoism to altruism under the pressure of these external sanction

CRITICISM

- The hedonistic calculus of Bentham is impracticable . The feeling of pleasure and pain are subjective and variable . Therefore they cannot be quantitatively measured in the way Bentham thinks.
- Altruism is not satisfactory transition egoism over altruism. Support of altruism with egoism as the permis basis

John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism* writes that “the Greatest Happiness Principle” is:

An existence exempt as far as possible from pain, and as rich as possible in enjoyments, both in point of quantity and quality; the test of quality, and the rule for measuring it against quantity, being the preference felt by those who in their opportunities of experience, to which must be added their habits of self-consciousness and self-observation, are best furnished with the means of comparison. This being, according to the utilitarian opinion, the end of human action, is necessarily also the standard of morality; which may accordingly be defined, the rules and precepts for human conduct, by the observance of which an existence such as has been described might be, to the greatest extent possible, secured to all mankind; and not to them only, but, so far as the nature of things admits, to the whole sentient creation.

- ❑ John Stuart Mill saw that the problem of calculating the amount of happiness had to take into account the type of pleasure as well as its intensity and quantity as Bentham did.
- ❑ Mill thought that Moral and Intellectual pleasures were greater than sensual.
- ❑ His famous example is that we would rather be human than a perfectly satisfied pig.

CRITICISM

1. Difficulty of balancing different kinds of pleasures and pains.
2. There are other goods besides pleasure.
3. Does not respect the dignity and worth of individuals. The needs of the many always outweigh the needs of the few.

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