

Suffering

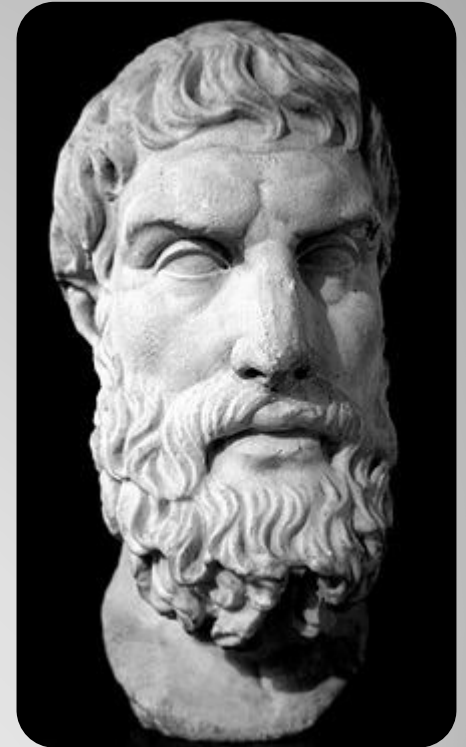
Human Dignity Education



Catholic Cemeteries
Archdiocese of Vancouver

Suffering Level 1: Epicurean

- If pleasure = happiness, we fail to see how any good can come from pain
- We seek to never be deprived of pleasures and possessions (but this leads to addiction and consumerism)
- Suffering has no meaning at this level
- Quality of life is measured by wealth and pleasure



- Embarrassment, failure, and feelings of inferiority can sink us into depression
- If pain or illness handicaps us, or renders us dependent on others, life seems useless and meaningless.
- Quality of life measured by how well we **function**
- Fear of suffering/hardship (suffering inhibits our ability to achieve, or to “experience life”)



Suffering Level 2: Ego Handicap

- Suffering gives opportunity to create beautiful qualities that transform our hearts, and those around us
- Allowing others into our vulnerability brings a depth of love and hope into the world, otherwise not possible
- Quality of life focuses on ability to **love others**



Level 3: Hero in the Making

Suffering Level 4: Surrender to God

- Suffering is spiritual (God can use it for the good of all people)
 - “The economy of salvation has not changed” (St. Padre Pio)
 - St. Paul to the Colossians (1:24)
- God uses suffering to lead us to the surrender of faith. It is an opportunity for spiritual and emotional growth; changes lives
- Quality of life derived from dignity as God’s children, made in His image. **No ailment or handicap can diminish this dignity.**

