

Endorsement, Worth and Well-Being

What is it for a life to go well?

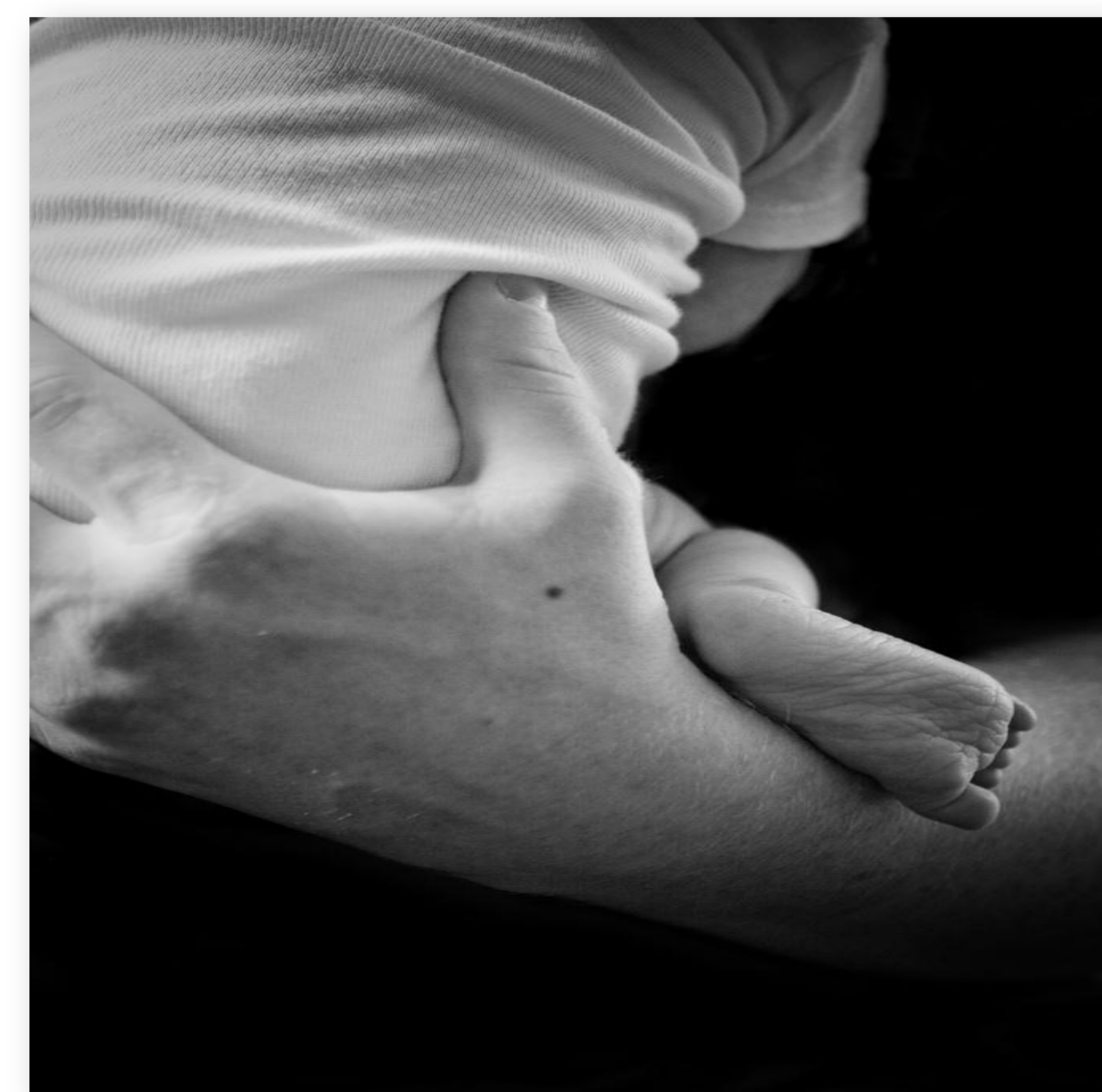


A Conceptual Question

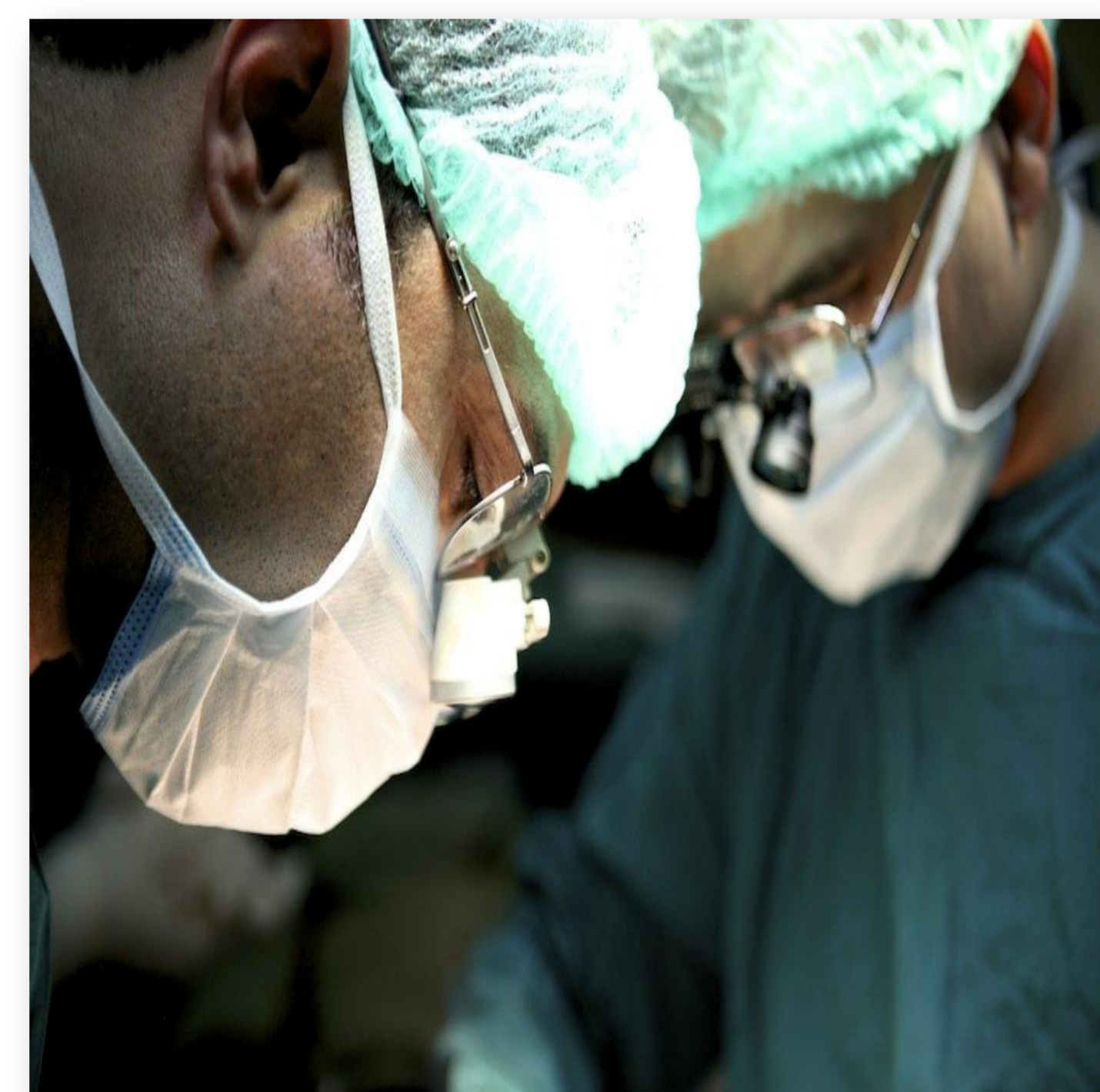
Theories of well-being give an account of what it is for persons to fare well. They state the general features that make a life good for the person who lives it.

They are the foundation for:

- rational decisions in which only the interests of the individual are concerned
- what we have reason to promote for the sake of a friend or child
- the consideration of a person's interests in moral argument



Most parents hope the lives of their children will go well, but what does that mean?



Medical professionals are often called on to assess the "quality of a life".

Subjectivism

Some suggest faring well consists in feeling good, getting what one wants, or experiencing life as rewarding and judging that it measures up against one's values. These views are common in the social sciences.

The problem of worth

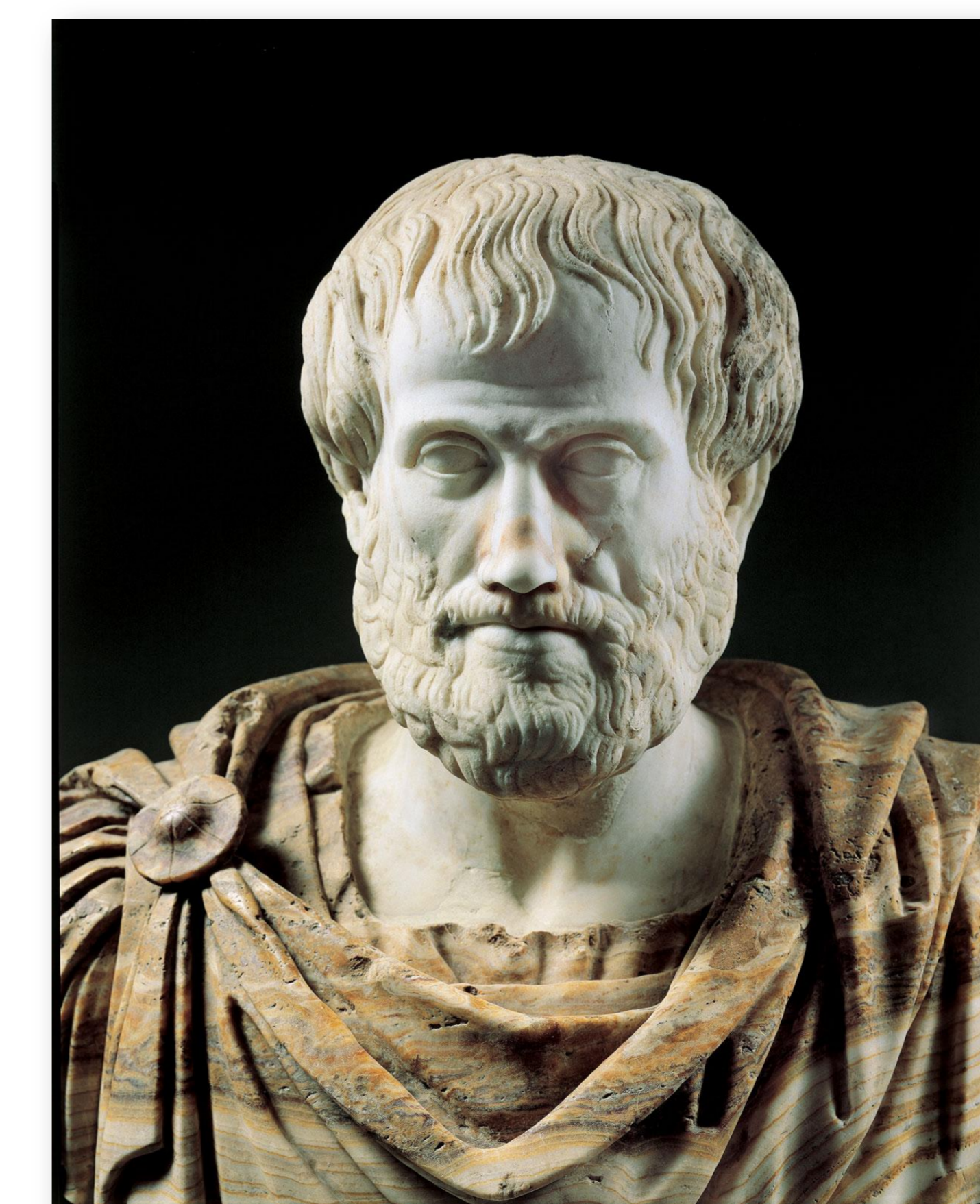
Subjectivists confront the problem that feelings, desires and personal values do not always track well-being.

Objectivism

Others suggest faring well consists in flourishing or of functioning well according to appropriate standards.



Is there more to faring well than pleasure and satisfaction?



Aristotle believes faring well is a matter of functioning well.

The problem of authority

The trouble is that objectivists break the connection between the nature of well-being and one's concerns.

If this is right, then one can fare well despite the fact that one does not enjoy or even dislikes the life one lives provided one's life relate suitably to valuable objects.

So what is it for a life to go well?

My research shows that the core variable is not exclusively subjective or objective.

Faring well is a matter of endorsing goods that are worthy of concern.