

PD10 - Interpretations of PD 10 Discussion

Post by “Elayne” of January 18, 2021 at 3:45 PM

I think that's not what EP means, and PD 10 does not say that either. That's taking [PD10](#) too far.

Nowhere does Epicurus say a person should refuse to make a one-time decision for permanent complete pleasure on grounds that it's better to have less pleasure along with ongoing choices! That hypothetical is not taken up in [PD10](#).

In context of the whole philosophy, choice and avoidance are used to obtain pleasure. Choice and avoidance are not stand-alone goods but skills in service of the goal. So there would be no reason to forgo pleasure and retain choice-- IF one were certain of the result.

Just practically speaking, sometimes I can make one long time choice, such as I did when I purchased my condo, for pleasure. Of course, I could sell it, but pragmatically I have limited the ease of choosing to live elsewhere tomorrow. I could have retained more freedom of choice by taking a home with the shortest possible lease, so I could exercise choice frequently. But that kind of thing doesn't show up in [PD10](#) nor elsewhere.

Epicurus is not focused on creating the maximum number of choices over the longest duration.