

Episode Fifty-Five - Reason Is Dependent On The Senses (Part 2)

Post by "Don" of February 2, 2021 at 6:48 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

the picture involves the bliss pill issues - in the end we are concerned about living happily, not necessarily having the ability to give the most "accurate" recitation of the details.

Your comment here hints at something I've been planning on writing a longer post about so I'll *try* to be brief here.

When we all use catchphrases like "The goal is pleasure" it can easily be misinterpreted that we mean "the goal is to walk around all day with warm, fuzzy feelings" or "the goal is to exist in a blissful haze." That's not the goal of Epicurus's philosophy. At least not the way I understand it. The goal or telos is to live the most pleasurable life. That's not the same as warm fuzzy blissed out feelings every minute of the day. That's why we endure pains for pleasure that will result from those painful choices. That's why we remember past pleasures when things aren't necessarily going well. Using the catchy motto "pleasure is the goal" was used to caricature Epicurus's philosophy in his own lifetime. The idea that "the goal is to walk around all day with warm, fuzzy feelings" approach is Cyrenaic not Epicurean, and Epicurus fought hard against those stereotypes. When we use "pleasure is the goal" it can easily be misinterpreted as well as "Capital-P Pleasure is the goal" like there's some Platonic ideal form of Pleasure that we're aiming for. I wouldn't want people to think that if they're not experiencing Pleasure that they're doing it wrong. This may also be why people redefine pleasure - to try to attain that mistaken Platonic ideal. That's not the Garden path either.

I'm also concerned [Cassius](#) by your "not necessarily having the ability to give the most "accurate" recitation of the details." This seems to me to open the door to some problems and I'd like to hear or read more about what you actually mean here before I go off on a tangent.