

All Pleasure Is Desirable, Because It Is Pleasing To Us, But Is All Pleasure *Equally* Desirable?

Post by "Cassius" of May 11, 2018 at 4:17 PM

Daniel: When you write "My claim is pleasure and pain are not defined as the lack of one another - they may both be present at the same time" I think you are right and that is proper phrasing. In our total experience, my head can be experiencing pleasure while my foot is in pain. In any moment we are experiencing multiple sensations, some of which are pleasurable and some painful. I write this only as a reminder of a point I made earlier that there is a very technical dispute in Plato about whether pain and pleasure can mix together to form a "third" feeling, and that if I understand correctly, Epicurus held that they do NOT mix in that way. Just keep that in mind for future reading - and I write this for others who might read the thread as much to you, Daniel, since I hope what we are doing in these threads is building discussions that will be useful for others to read for years to come!

Oh - now I see why I wrote that. Daniel you wrote: ""more red does not undo green, but blends with green to make yellow". I have no idea how pleasure and pain blend. Maybe it is heterogeneous, like water and oil shaken together. Maybe it is homogeneous, like hydrogen and oxygen combining to make water." That's the terminology that concerns me, but as you say you are not taking a position on how or whether they "blend." That's the point to reserve for future reading and comparing to Plato's criticisms of pleasure in [Philebus](#). If you admit that they "blend" to create a new third type of feeling, as I understand it that opens up a series of logical issues which Plato will exploit against you, primarily in terms of how you will require "reason" to un-blend them, at which point you are led down a rabbit trail that reason is more important than pleasure and pain, and ultimately replaces them as the goal/guide of life. Again, that's a topic for another time, and probably another thread.