

# Episode Ninety-Three: Torquatus Leads Us Forward Into Conflict Over Epicurean Ethics

Post by “Don” of October 28, 2021 at 4:55 PM

Okay, we're getting somewhere (and you're making me hungry for Peanut M&Ms... My go-to confection 😊 )

So, we've established:

*Eating "Soft Caramel Candies" gives Cassius pleasure.*

I would also say:

*Thinking about eating "Soft Caramel Candies" gives Cassius pleasure.*

And,

*Thinking about eating Chocolate "Soft Caramel Candies" gives Cassius more pleasure than thinking about eating Coffee "Soft Caramel Candies".*

Let's just take those two for now.

What does having "more pleasure" mean?

I know you can categorize them, put them in order, etc. You say

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

I have no problem considering the flavor, intensity, texture (some are softer than others), staying power (some dissolve faster than others) all of which let me easily categorize them as greater or lesser pleasures.

Those are all aspects of the experience of eating or anticipating eating the candy.

But what do you *mean* when you say or think: This gives me "more pleasure"?

This is a "greater" pleasure?

This is a "lesser" pleasure?

Is it the duration of the pleasure?

Is it a memory that wells up in relation to chocolate vs coffee?

I would suggest you're not actually describing a greater or lesser "pleasure" but something else.

The pleasurable feeling itself may be long and intense, it may be short and almost unnoticeable, it may need delayed, it may be immediate. You have a different emotional reaction to each of those experiences. You enjoy each one differently. Just like you can have different reactions to different mental or sensual (of the sense) activities which produce pleasure. The pleasure experienced is a good thing. The pleasure brings you joy. But the pleasurable feeling is the guide as to whether you'll pursue the choice to eat them.

On the other hand, if someone held you at gunpoint and made you eat 100 bags of Chocolate "Soft Caramel Candies", that would no longer be pleasurable. You may even grow to dislike the Chocolate "Soft Caramel Candies" because of painful memories. The pleasure of eating the candy is not inherent in the candy itself. The feeling is entirely contextual and subjective. So, there's no absolute greater or lesser value to the pleasure derived from the candy that is valid for every circumstance.

And yes I realize I'm using a hypothetical. 😊