

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

Post by "Don" of October 29, 2021 at 4:04 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

The felicific calculus is an algorithm formulated by utilitarian philosopher Jeremy Bentham (1747-1832) for calculating the degree or amount of pleasure that a specific action is likely to induce.

Bentham was definitely influenced by Epicurus's philosophy, but Bentham was not an Epicurean. I think we are talking about making a sort of "calculus" in the broad sense, but as I remember the Utilitarian felicific calculus is much more analytical and literally a calculation of adding up hedons (units of pleasure) and the pain units (word escapes me). The circumstances aren't a bad list of characteristics to consider, but I'm skeptical they can really be quantified like the Utilitarians want to.