

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

Post by “Cassius” of October 29, 2021 at 7:46 PM

I definitely think that one of the undercurrents of our discussion here is this:

My comments are based on a presumption that Epicurus is going back and forth, as the occasion demands, using the word "pleasure" in both a high-level conceptual sense at times, but also at other times strictly as a feelings, with times when his usage almost is intersecting. So I think we have to be flexible in our application of the definition to the context.

I get the impression that some of the comments in this thread are arising from seeing "pleasure" strictly and always as a "feeling" without any conceptual overlay or usage at any time. So we may have disagreement on that point,

But the "multiple definitions according to context" approach (which is very similar to the way DeWitt explains "[all sensations are true](#)") may be the issue that we need to address more directly.

I would say that "[all sensations are true](#)" cannot be understood unless we step back and realize that "true" can mean both "absolutely true" but at other times mean "reported honestly."

Using the same approach, I would say that "pleasure" can (1) sometimes mean "a positive feeling" but (2) at other times mean "a concept in which the goal of life is defined as positive feelings, in distinction from other goals such as piety or rationality or virtue,"