

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

Post by “Don” of October 29, 2021 at 10:06 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I would say that this is one of those areas where once we identify an absurdity (the assertion that all pleasures are identical in every respect) we immediately reject it as having possibly been Epicurus' position and we immediately go elsewhere looking for a proper understanding of his assertions.

That was my point in an earlier post. Epicurus is saying in [PD09](#) "If X were the case, then Y" but he's asserting a counterfactual. [PD09](#) has to do with the impossibility of equating all the possible pleasureable activities in which humans can engage. They're all distinct, but similar in that they bring pleasure. They can't be condensed etc however. There are many pleasures which we can desire and these desires must be chosen or rejected based on measuring them against the criteria of whether those desires fulfilled will lead to a more pleasurable life or not. Not measured against a hierarchy somewhere.

I've also come to think that [PD09](#) is directly related to [PD10](#). That's another counterfactual "If X were the case, then Y." [PD09](#) establishes there are myriad pleasures. [PD10](#) established those pleasures enjoyed by the profligate ARE pleasurable but not necessarily choice-worthy because they don't dispel fears of death, etc., and do not lead to a more pleasureable life.