

Collecting Ancient Instances of the Argument: "Pleasure Cannot Be The Highest Good Because It Has No Limit"

Post by "Don" of December 30, 2021 at 10:44 AM

Thanks, [Cassius](#). You also raise some good points.

- Note that it's eudaimonia (let's use well-being as an inadequate translation) not pleasure that the excerpt is describing.
- There's no value judgment, just an observation. "We can imagine 2 types of eudaimonia..."
- It's also an important observation from that excerpt that our eudaimonia is *composed* of pleasures. The pleasure that comprises the gods' eudaimonia cannot be increased. They're filled up. For us mortals, pleasures can be added or subtracted to the eudaimonia of us mortals... But we can work toward the fully immersive total pleasure of the gods.

PS I think it's important to point out that eudaimonia is just what we call a pleasurable life. It's a description of what happens as we experience the pleasures in life.

Quote from Epicurus

Neither must one who is young delay in loving and pursuing wisdom; nor should one who is old grow weary of loving and pursuing wisdom; because it is neither out of season nor untimely for the health of the psychē. And one who says either the season to love and practice wisdom is not yet arrived or the season has passed by is like someone who is saying either the proper time has not arrived or is no more for eudaimonia. Therefore, both the young and old must love and pursue wisdom. On the one hand, the old can be young by means of gratitude for the pleasures which have happened; on the other hand, the young can be as if they are old in years by means of the fearlessness of facing what is intended to be done or what is to come. You must study and meditate upon that which produces eudaimonia. For if indeed that is present, we have everything; if that is not present, we do anything to have it.

I'd paraphrase by saying "You must study and meditate upon how to experience pleasure (i.e., that which produces eudaimonia). If pleasure is present, we have everything. If pleasure is not present, we do anything to experience it."