

Eusebius

Post by "Cassius" of January 23, 2022 at 5:43 PM

Quote

that we ought always to choose the former and avoid the latter, for they are measured by quantity and not by quality.

That would seem to be either an error in the text or maybe different meanings of the word "quality." Is it "quality" in the senses of "properties of atoms v qualities of combined bodies," or "quality" in the sense of "purity" or maybe even "intensity?"

If the point is the weighing of the quantity of pleasure vs the quantity of pain, that would make more sense, but I would argue even that isn't correct unless we're getting really abstract and saying that all pleasure is the same and all we have to do is add it up in terms of quantity (of time perhaps?) -- But I don't think Epicurus taught that simplistic a view of pleasure. All pleasure is desirable, because it is pleasing, but that doesn't mean that all pleasures are identical.

I agree that this doesn't sound correct.

Quote

Else it would be a monstrous thing for beings endowed with man's nature to forsake the most divine judgement of the mind and entrust themselves to irrational pleasures and pains.'

Yes, Christians and most of the rest of the world think that Epicureans are monsters. Or that Epicurus was an Antichrist even. This is why we can't get too complacent and think that "everyone wants to be happy" means the same thing to everyone.