

AFDIA - Chapter Three - Text and Discussion

Post by “Don” of February 19, 2022 at 10:27 PM

I've said it elsewhere on the forum and I'll restate it here slightly differently (and maybe more emphatically). This is rapidly becoming my position:

Epicurus's τᾶγαθὸν (tagathon) = "The Good" , i.e., the greatest/highest/ultimate good thing = Pleasure = "that at which everything else aims"

The good things are not ranked. Pleasure is The Good; all other good things are instrumental in achieving pleasure. Pleasure stands alone. Virtue, wisdom, etc. are subservient to pleasure. Pleasure is the "foundational" good thing (the ἀρχή) ; it is our inborn, natural good thing; it is the goal at which we aim (our τέλος). Epicurus says φρονησις phronesis/practical wisdom is the "greatest good" (but didn't call it τᾶγαθὸν) which I'm taking as the greatest instrumental good to achieve pleasure and a pleasurable life. Everything we do is - or should be - for the sake of pleasure, that is, for leading a pleasurable life.