

# Article by Voorhoeve: Epicurus on Pleasure, A Complete Life, and Death: A Defense

Post by "Cassius" of March 4, 2022 at 10:06 AM

idea that achieving the best life takes time (and that death on the way to achieving it is bad) is common in the Epicurean tradition. For example, the Epicurean philosopher Philodemus of Gadara writes:

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<sup>11</sup> For reasons outlined in [Burri 2019](#), it might also be bad for them because it thwarts their agency.

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[I]t is reasonable for this reason [viz., in order to attain the Epicurean complete life] to try to live for as long as possible and to think that for this reason some young people die miserably. For it is the mark of a man of understanding to desire to live for a certain period of time in order to fulfil the innate and natural desires and grasp the whole of the most appropriate way of life possible. As a result, being satisfied with goods and rejecting every disturbance which desires cause, he comes upon tranquillity. (Philodemus, *De Morte [DM]* XIII.36–XIV.14, in [Warren 2004](#), p. 149)<sup>12</sup>

In sum, on the view proposed here, attaining insight and independence from fortune, and tasting the pleasures of invulnerability all provide Epicureans with a motivation to live (indeed, to keep going in the face of difficulties). It is only Epicureans who have accomplished these aims who can invariably face death with equanimity.