

# Can you seek happiness and be full of joy when there is a war in Europe? Wes Cecil podcast.

Post by "Cassius" of May 18, 2022 at 10:46 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

"I want to feel pleasure so I'll go to war." or "War gives me pleasure."

I think we're pretty much on the same page after reading the recent posts.

I think the issues that arise in discussing things like this is mainly a matter of keeping multiple contexts in mind.

Those two statements of course as written without additional context would be highly unlikely to make sense in most cases.

But since everything is a "case" more than a "rule" even those two could be tied to a context and make sense:

"I want to continue to feel pleasure at living under the Roman Republic so I will participate in assassinating Julius Caesar and go to war against Anthony and Octavian." (That would be something I could easily hear Cassius Longinus saying, given his letters to Cicero justifying his Epicurean beliefs, but as always when discussing the Roman Civil War there seem to be a lot of things going on beneath the surface so I am not really sure whose side I would take if i had been there)

"War against the Persians will lead to great pleasure if am able able to save Sparta and Greece." (I could hear Leonidas saying something like that prior to Themopalyae.)

But really at this point there's probably nothing further to be accomplished in illustrating the point. As usual I think we're basically at the same position. The interesting point that we can file away for the future is the extent to which illustrations like this are helpful in the "teaching" aspect of Epicurean philosophy. For the same reason that we discussed it we probably do need good examples of the point that only "pleasure" itself is ALWAYS a desirable feeling (because our nature presents itself to us that way.

That means everything else (even the **choice** to pursue a particular pleasure at a particular moment) has to be evaluated contextually.

And I don't think we are just playing with words. I think the clear articulation of these issues has to come before we can clearly understand it or express the point to others.

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2517-can-you-seek-happiness-and-be-full-of-joy-when-there-is-a-war-in-europe-wes-ceci/?postID=18041#post18041>