

Perspectives On "Proving" That Pleasure is "The Good"

Post by "Godfrey" of December 22, 2022 at 3:22 AM

I'm coming late to this discussion, but....

1. This seems like exactly the type of rabbit hole that Cicero cleverly led to in his discussion of Epicurus.
2. [Todd](#) you have mentioned repeatedly that in this thread you are *only* discussing ethics. I think that that's a mistake, because there's no Epicurean ethics without the physics. To me, separating the two is in this instance an error of dialectics, which can be useful for winning arguments but not terribly useful in gaining a complete understanding of a subject.
3. In light of 2, I think that we all agree that pleasure is the positive/attractive part of the faculty of Feelings. As such, a prudent understanding of one's feelings and desires is the core of Epicurean ethics.
4. Pleasure is good. It's a good. It's The Good. It feels good. It's everything described in the previous 138 posts.
5. From my perspective, there seem to be three things being discussed in this thread: a) parsing the concept "good," b) trying to gain a clear grasp of Epicurean philosophy, and c) coming to a way of presenting the philosophy to others. If I'm correct in this, it might be helpful to put a) into one thread and b) and c) into another thread. Combining them all, at least for me, is creating a lot of confusion. If new terminology is necessary, I think it would best derive from a discussion of the intent of the philosophy, from general to specific. Parsing the meaning of specific ancient words is important, but needs to be done in a very specific context. And, at least for me, the specificity of that context seems uncertain in this thread.