

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

Post by "Todd" of December 24, 2022 at 9:12 AM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

So it would seem that what's important to discuss and work with is pleasure/pain, and not "the good," "a good," or "good."

Sort of. Pleasure/pain are fundamental, primordial things. Good is a derivative concept.

However, it is still a common word that people use, so it's not like we can just avoid it altogether. The meaning of good to an Epicurean would just be "producing pleasure" or "a thing that produces pleasure".

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

And there's a context in which it's important to parse good/a good/the good, but that's peripheral to a functional understanding of Epicurean philosophy

Yes. That context is when you're dealing with other schools of philosophy.

And then, I think the Epicurean approach should be to demand that they provide a definition of good, if they don't want to accept ours. And we should not allow them to define it in a circular, self-referential way, and then proceed as if we all agree.