

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

Post by "Todd" of December 24, 2022 at 12:08 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

The concept predates Epicurus, but he was more than willing to weigh in on the controversy/ argument by using that specific term, τᾶγαθον "the good." It seems to me that Epicurus acknowledged the debate and felt he could swoop in with the only solution that made any sense. I believe that he believed there was indeed ONE thing to which all else points and it IS pleasure. (Epicurus drops the mic, walks off stage.)

Yeah, Epicurus was willing to wade into that argument. And it seems less dangerous in Greek where you have 2 distinct words. Maybe the transition to Latin was where it all started to go wrong.

[Quote from Don](#)

I think you have to establish pleasure as "the good" before you start to use it as your criteria. Otherwise, it's just an assertion. By establishing pleasure as that to which all else points, you've set an end point - a goal - on which one should stay focused.

I disagree on this, but it's a comparatively minor point. I don't assert that pleasure is "the good"; I reject the need for such a concept as "the good". Pleasure just is. Attaching other labels to it doesn't make it more impressive.

I think I would argue in the other direction (just thinking out loud...don't hold me to this): everything we think of as good, we ultimately consider good because it produces pleasure.