

Imagery On The Interplay Between "Pursue Pleasure" and 'Avoid Pain'

Post by "Cassius" of March 29, 2023 at 6:28 AM

Good point. Sometimes I think what is going on is clearly manipulation from the outside, and that has to be seen through to get past it and defeat it.

3

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EPICURUS AND HIS PHILOSOPHY

Throughout this book certain devices of procedure will be employed which were worked out and practiced by Epicurus himself. One of these has been exemplified in the preceding paragraphs. He laid special stress upon the importance of the diathesis or the **attitude** to be chosen at the beginning. For instance, in the very first of his forty Authorized Doctrines the disciple is informed that the gods are not to be feared, because "the incorruptible being is immune to feelings of anger or gratitude." If only the disciple could maintain this attitude, it was felt that he would be rightly disposed to receive all subsequent instruction about the nature of the gods. On this same principle the hope is here entertained that, if the reader habituates himself from the outset to think of Epicurus as both the most revered and the most reviled of all ancient philosophers, he will be rightly prepared to judge with impartiality the course of his life and the true structure of his doctrine.

And in regard to habit, this Vatican Saying:

VS46. Let us utterly drive from us our bad habits, as if they were evil men who have long done us great harm.