

"Living for Pleasure" Book Study Group - Starting April 30, 2023 - Via Zoom

Post by "Cassius" of June 6, 2023 at 7:50 AM

Now that our book review is complete let me thank all who participated, and especially Emily Austin who joined in our final session. We'll plan a new program soon and we'll rotate back to "Living for Pleasure" in the future.

One comment I wanted to make about the discussion in the final session was a point that Godfrey raised. The question that he raised was rather it would be possibly more effective - at least in certain situations - to organize the presentation around "feeling" (feeling of pleasure and pain) rather than strictly and immediately pleasure.

I agree with that point and maybe Godfrey or I can start a new thread to extend it.

Cicero's taunt to Torquatus was that you can't go in front of the Senate and People as a leader and call for the pursuit of "pleasure," and I think one way of meeting that charge and actually doing so is to point out that what Epicurus was really advocating was the following of Nature - through the faculty of feeling pleasure and pain. I think at least as a rhetorical strategy that makes a lot of sense, and I read that into what Cassius Longinus was saying back to Cicero in his letters,. that the officers like himself and Pansa were following both pleasure and virtue (justice) in what they were doing, which is something that people can understand, when the call to "virtue" alone doesn't really mean anything understandable. The subtext is that the emotional attachment to what they were fighting for is the feeling of pleasure, properly understood, that can motivate just as easily, or more so, than the call to "virtue."