

Ruminations on leading with “Pleasure and Pain as the Guide” v “The Goal is Pleasure”

Post by “Cassius” of June 9, 2023 at 7:07 AM

I am still thinking through the implications, but at this point it seems absolutely clear to me that if you tell me:

"Titus is alive and pain-free."

The proper Epicurean response, without knowing anything else whatsoever about what Titus is doing, thinking, or feeling, is to take those words as "saying what they mean and meaning what they say" and conclude:

"Titus is in a state of pleasure, and in that the fullest possible."

The fact that you can make that deduction with total confidence and without reservation has virtually nothing to do with neurology or psychology or biology, but is essentially a reasoned deduction you draw from the understanding and definitions (informed by neurology and psychology and biology and all sorts of science) that you have applied to the words "pleasure," "pain," and "alive."