

Would You Rather Live For A Week As (1) Epicurus During the Last Week of His Life or (2) An Anonymous Shepherd Laying In The Grass In The Summertime With No Pain At All?

Post by "Blank_Emu43" of September 7, 2023 at 4:08 AM

I chose option three.

As a human (like other animals), I do desire to achieve pleasure and to avoid pain. So of course I will choose the option with no pain. However, if I do end up the same way as Epicurus – dying from bladder stones or something else painful – I may choose instead to accept my impending demise knowing that I have lived a good life. If I can remain as cheerful as Epicurus was in his last days, I probably wouldn't think of any other option.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

That is a very good follow on question to help articulate the answer to the first and main question: Would Epicurus himself have traded places for the week that is under discussion?

Assuming that in this hypothetical Epicurus avoids his painful death, I would say no but only because it would allow him to prove that he can still be cheerful despite being in pain, setting an example to his followers. His body may have been in immense pain but his mind wasn't as he was able to remember and reflect on his life, his friends, his philosophical discussions, etc., which gave him pleasure. And of course he knew that he wouldn't have been in immense pain for too long (PD4). Not to mention that he also had people who were capable of tending the Garden after he was gone. Preserving his legacy and teachings for generations to come... until Nature decides to bury a lot of it under ash and lava. Maybe building a town near a volcano isn't a good idea?