

If Death Is Nothing To Us, Then Life Is Everything to Us

Post by “Cassius” of October 7, 2023 at 12:08 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

The HUGE issue here is that the saying is completely divorced from its original textual context. Was Epicurus arguing against a specific point? Was he speaking generally?

To me this question shows the way to the answer. The items in a collection of quotes would more than likely be selected according to the generality and importance of its application. To say that we enjoy pleasure when we feel it without intervening step (thinking about it) is possible, but to me that is so obvious as to not likely be the meaning. To my knowledge no one contends that you have to think about pleasure before you feel it.

To say that we feel pleasure as soon as it happens is also true, but again adds little if anything that would qualify this as a great insight worthy of inclusion in the list.

I think we are in agreement that the focus is on time more than anything about evil.

I would see two options: (1) It could be having to do with something about the argument with the Cyreniacs which seems to be about whether we experience pleasure at the time we do something (philosophy as stated example) or later on. (2) It could have to do with pleasure being inseparable from life and being available only while you are alive.

I think both points would be correct Epicurean philosophy, and I think we agree that it's hard to know without more context.

I don't know that 42's sequence in the list tells us much, but it seems to be in a section of very practical advice.