

Episode 195 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 05

Post by "Don" of October 11, 2023 at 1:26 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Quote

[PD09](#). If every pleasure could be intensified so that it lasted, and influenced the whole organism or the most essential parts of our nature, pleasures would never differ from one another"

Is it possible that one inference to take from this is that variety in pleasures IS desirable, and that we should not seek to let any of the three factors take over exclusively, even though variety does not take the amount of pleasure past its theoretical limit?

Εἰ κατεπυκνοῦτο πᾶσα ἡδονή, καὶ χρόνῳ καὶ περὶ ὅλον τὸ ἄθροισμα ὑπῆρχεν ἢ τὰ κυριώτατα μέρη τῆς φύσεως, οὐκ ἄν ποτε διέφερον ἀλλήλων αἱ ἡδοναί.

Yes, I would say variety is desirable. At the very least, we can say that pleasures (αἱ ἡδοναί is plural) do differ from each other.

Quote from Cassius

With the final unstated clause not being "but they do" but being instead "and you should not want them to or try to make them."

I'm not sure I'm onboard with your addition to the "unstated" clause. The unstated clause is very helpful in getting across the grammatical construction that conveys the counterfactual. Yours actually adds new content. I'm not quite sure what you're getting at with "and you should not want them to or try to make them." Is that commentary directed at those who elevate tranquility?