

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

Post by "Don" of October 11, 2023 at 1:41 PM

## [Quote from Godfrey](#)

Paraphrase: "The most pleasure that one can experience is the removal of all pain, throughout one's body and mind, for the duration of their life. This maximal pleasure comprises pleasures which occur in various parts of one's body and mind and at various times, to such an extent that they fill the entirety of the person's body and mind for the duration of their life." [PD03](#)

Is this a correct paraphrase of [PD03](#)? If so, why? If not, why not?

As the start to a response, here's my clunky literal translation:

"The limit of the magnitude of pleasure (is) the whole of the removal of that which causes pain. Where that which gives pleasure exists, during the time it is present, there is neither pain nor that which causes pain in body or mind nor either of these together."

You included "for the duration of their life." I don't think that's implied in the PD. I think it's more important to focus on "during the time it is present." We can have the kind of pleasure outlined in PD3 momentarily or longer, but we're not guaranteed to have it, a mortal beings, "for the duration" of our lives. Even Epicurus didn't have that kind of pleasure "for the duration" off his life. Diogenes Laertius's commentary comes to mind: "Two sorts of happiness can be conceived, the one the highest possible, such as the gods enjoy, which cannot be augmented, the other admitting addition and subtraction of pleasures."