

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

Post by "Godfrey" of October 11, 2023 at 8:37 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Is "variety" in pleasure the reason we find it is desirable to get out of bed tomorrow? Or is the reason just that we didn't succeed in making "pure pleasure" today so that we try again tomorrow?

I don't necessarily think that either or these is the reason to get out of bed, although in a particular instance they could be. One thought is that pleasure is something that we're attracted to, so any pleasure may get us out of bed: a beautiful day outside, the smell of coffee, the anticipation of some activity that awaits.

Another thought is that desire, not desire, is the reason to get out of bed. The desire to relieve a full bladder, to drink a cup of coffee, to accomplish such-and-such. Experiencing pleasure may actually keep you in bed: enjoying the sun shining through the window in your bedroom, the pleasure of anticipating some future event, etc. It could be a desire for variety, or a desire to achieve pure pleasure today.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I would think there must be an equally simple way of dealing with a question such as: "If your view of the goal is (1), and you reach it one day, why do you want to live another day?"

This gets back to the Cyrenaic view of pleasure. As I recall, they thought that there was no lasting pleasure so that as soon as you reached your goal and satisfied one desire for a pleasure, you had to then satisfy another desire for pleasure. This also points out an issue with goal setting in general which is being discussed in some circles these days: once you reach your goal, what do you do? Instead, some writers recommend developing a habitual process of moving forward toward achieving what is important to you.

Too, pleasure is able to increase in duration, so if you reach your maximum of pleasure one day, you can still increase it by continuing it for another day.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

"living the sort of life specific to the being in question"

Any properly functioning being has an innate drive to pleasure/health/vitality, which I assume would drive it/them naturally to get out of bed and do stuff, if able.