

Episode 196 - The Epicurean Arguments In Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 06

Post by “Pacatus” of October 14, 2023 at 5:02 PM

[Don](#): I love the syllogistic (deductive) analysis! Let me see if I can offer a possible solution to your closing “impasse” -

Both A1 and A2 can contain physical and mental components: as you put it, “neither A1 nor A2 map neatly onto mind and body since memories can be a kinetic pleasure.” Let’s call **A1p** physical kinetic pleasure, and **A1m** mental kinetic pleasure. Similarly, **A2p** is katastematic physical pleasure; and **A2m** is katastematic mental pleasure. So -

$$A = A1 + A2 = [(A1p + A1m) + (A2p + A2m)].$$

With that expansion, there seems to be no need to include B2 on the left-hand side. A sum-state of pleasure becomes simply:

$$(A1 + A2) = [A1p + A1m) + (A2p + A2m)] - (B1 + B2) > 0.$$

LATE EDIT: And there seems no need to to specify that physical pleasure itself outweighs physical pain, or that mental pleasure outweighs mental pain -- especially since we already know that mental pleasure can potentially mitigate physical pain.

And the daily goal - choice by choice - is to **max A - B** (with attention to those internal components). And that is how one maximizes **A(C)** - which we could call *eudaimonia*?

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Question: Can B1 and B2 also have katastematic qualities? For example, chronic physical pain or clinical depression?

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Okay, my brain is cracked. 😄