

# The Axiology of Pain and Pleasure (are they intrinsic good/bad ? )

Post by "Cassius" of June 4, 2024 at 11:17 AM

## [Quote from Don](#)

I don't think the language supports that interpretation, especially in light of the letter to Menoikeus. It seems to me he's giving practical advice in [PD10](#), not necessarily making a grand philosophical point. I

Yes, that is exactly the point we have generally differed in the past, and continue to differ (respectfully!) 😊 While I agree with the practical observation that a life of profligacy will not *generally* lead to a good result, to me the "grand philosophical point" (a good way to describe it) is the overriding "take-away" that justifies its inclusion as a principal doctrine.

PS - I am not sure who Epicurus would have pointed to as someone who at least seems to provide such an example of profligacy being rewarded, but I gather that some later Romans might have cited Sulla, who apparently lived a pretty dissolute life and yet arguably never suffered for it, at least not in any proportion as he apparently deserved.

## Quote

As promised, when his tasks were complete, Sulla returned his powers and withdrew to his country villa near [Puteoli](#) to be with his family. Plutarch states in his *Life of Sulla* that he retired to a life spent in dissolute luxuries, and he "consorted with actresses, harpists, and theatrical people, drinking with them on couches all day long." From this distance, Sulla remained out of the day-to-day political activities in Rome, intervening only a few times when his policies were involved (e.g. the execution of Granius, shortly before his own death).<sup>[143][144]</sup>

His [public funeral](#) in Rome (in the Forum, in the presence of the whole city) was on a scale unmatched until that of [Augustus](#) in AD 14. Sulla's body was brought into the city on a golden bier, escorted by his veteran soldiers, and [funeral orations](#) were delivered by several eminent senators, with the main oration possibly delivered by [Lucius Marcius Philippus](#) or Hortensius. Sulla's body was [cremated](#) and his ashes placed in his tomb in the [Campus Martius](#).<sup>[150]</sup> An epitaph, which Sulla composed himself, was inscribed onto the tomb, reading, "No friend ever served me, and no enemy ever wronged me, whom I have not repaid in full."<sup>[151]</sup> Plutarch claims he had seen Sulla's personal motto carved on his tomb on the [Campus Martius](#). The personal motto was

"no better friend, no worse enemy."