

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

Post by "Little Rocker" of June 4, 2024 at 11:44 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I interpret your view of [PD10](#) as focusing on the "but it won't work because it is not possible part." Yes in practical terms that is true, but stopping there does not advance the philosophical argument.

I don't want to be Pollyanna here, but it seems you can both have this point--pleasure is pleasure, and all of it is good in itself--but only some strategies for pursuing it consistently bring about and sustain the most desirable state. As in the *Letter to Menoeceus*, all pleasures are good, but only some are choiceworthy. And it's true that a pleasure that is not choiceworthy in one context (participating in politics) can become choiceworthy in another (participate or die/break trust). So what counts as choiceworthy varies--it might very well be that in some contexts, flying to the moon on a whim and a prayer is choiceworthy.

Yet I think I'm with Don on PD 10, at least when coupled with PD 11. They have a remarkably similar structure, and they both seem to suggest that the people in question are not studying some important variety of natural science (the kind that, among other things, dissolves fears of death and of heavenly phenomena and also sets limits on our desires). I can't see Epicurus considering natural science negotiable.