

Why Minimizing All Desire Is Incorrect (And What To Do Instead)

Post by “Don” of December 7, 2024 at 11:26 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

But since one of our goals here is to be as clear as possible for ourselves and for others who are reading, we need to be clear: What really is the "general rule" that we are discussing?

Hmmm... The general rule I see in play here is "Overindulgence leads to pain."

[Quote from Cassius](#)

general rule is that pleasure is desirable because it is pleasure. That's a flat assertion with no exceptions whatsoever.

Yeah, here we are with different interpretations of "rule." "Pleasure is desirable because it is pleasure" is just a tautology. Nothing is defined there, and it doesn't advance the argument. "Pleasure is the supreme good" at least hammers home a philosophical stance, and I see that as stating an observed fact, not as a general rule.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

we're probably in complete agreement about the probabilities of what is likely to bring more pain than pleasure.

Agreed.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Where Cicero and the majority of the rest of the world try to attack Epicurus is in conflating all these issues together and therefore asserting that "pleasure" is not the best term for the ultimate good. If we agree to that, then we invite in all sorts of logical problems that ultimately make it untenable to maintain that "pleasure" is the ultimate good or ultimate goal.

Agreed. Part of Epicurus' genius was hammering down that there were two, and only two, feelings: pleasure and pain. What wasn't one was the other. Boom. Therefore, to decrease the sorrow, pain, grief, anxiety, and, yes, indigestion in one's life is *the* path to follow along with, obviously, choosing activities that provide pleasure. And those things that lead to pleasure are

indispensable tools that allow us to make progress on that path.