

Why isn't "satisfaction" the guide of life?

Post by "Julia" of December 21, 2024 at 9:53 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

[...] many people are reading their own definition into Epicurus' view of pleasure, and then taking him to be telling them how to achieve their own limited goals. In contrast, [...] many of his specific statements about pleasure can easily be misapplied (as do those who practice asceticism) if they think that his explanation of the general goal is specifically applicable to what they themselves think is "pleasure."

I agree. I would just add that it's natural for many people that the specific causes them to question the general ("Hey, this went well! Why don't we always do that?"), that it is natural to have questions or doubts in various ways, and that ancient Epicureans expected that, which is why so much is devoted to the general principles of finding the right answers. So, I would stress this point: The fault of those you mentioned is not that they thought at all - their mistake is that they applied improper methods in their thinking 😊

(This focus is related to [that mathematics analogy](#) I made regarding the nature of Epicurean dogmatism.)