

# Episode 270 - Life Is Desirable, But Unlimited Time Contains No Greater Pleasure Than Limited Time

Post by "Joshua" of February 22, 2025 at 4:39 PM

## Quote

The first item in the delicate balance to which I referred earlier is, thus, the positive desirability for an Epicurean of extending the duration of pleasure, if possible to the natural length of a full human life. I now turn to the second item. Although staying alive longer is recommended, and may well enhance the blessedness of one's life, Epicurus is equally committed to the converse principle that dying sooner is in no way an evil. Contrary to a widespread assumption, it could not be an evil, for the simple reason that pain is the only evil, whereas being dead is painless, and therefore hedonically neutral, lacking pleasure and pain alike. It is natural to fear what you consider bad, but not to fear what you consider value-neutral.

-David Sedley, *Epicurean vs Cyrenaic Happiness*

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