

New Religious Landscape Study from Pew Research

Post by “Pacatus” of April 6, 2025 at 6:50 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

From my perspective, Epicurus was not positing a philosophical position in that "pleasure is the telos." He was identifying a universal trait of human beings - in fact, a trait of all living beings.

Once again, I come back to this.

I came across the following while reading Tim O’Keefe’s treatise on Epicureanism. I’m not sure that O’Keefe takes it all the way to the logical conclusion that you do (so well) here, but it did remind me -

“So we do not need to discern our inherent telos in order to discover the purpose of life. Instead, in order to find the highest good we simply have to observe what, as a matter of fact, people desire and pursue for its own sake and not for the sake of anything else.”

- Timothy O’Keefe, *Epicureanism*

In other words, it’s an empirical question - not some “second order” philosophical one, as in, say, Plato.