

The Use of Negation in Epicurean Philosophy Concepts

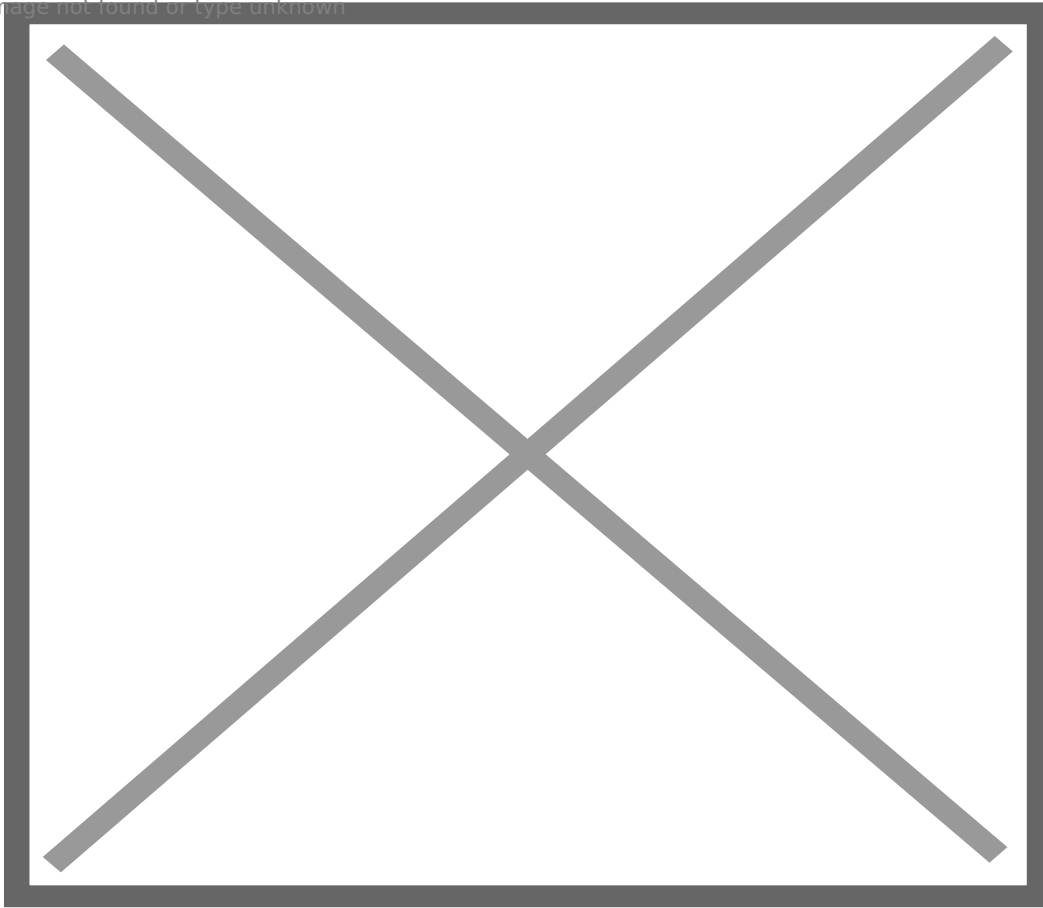
Post by "Rolf" of April 22, 2025 at 5:52 AM

[Quote from vlasalv](#)

I suppose, at least in my early understanding, that Epicurus indeed used the words 'pleasure' and 'pain' as conceptual markers rather than literal interpretations. His 'pleasure' seems to point more toward an inner tranquility - a state of peace rather than momentary delight. In that light, certain pains might be endured for the sake of greater inner peace, if they lead to that deep serenity. I wonder if Mildred Lisette Norman, the Peace Pilgrim, reached that state. Could she be seen as a modern figure who attained the god-like state that Epicurus spoke of?

Hey Vlas, welcome to the forum! I'm sure others will be able to explain this better, but the equating of "pleasure" with "a tranquil state" is a common pitfall in the understanding of Epicurean philosophy. When Epicurus says pleasure, he *means* pleasure. This includes pleasure of all kinds: The "state of peace" *and* the "momentary delight". The goal of Epicureanism is very much pleasure, complete pleasure, and not some kind of detached nirvana-esque state of serenity - no "god-like state", at least not in any typical understanding of the term.

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[Which Is It? Is "Ataraxia" Or "Pleasure" The Ultimate Epicurean Goal? - Epicureanfriends.com](http://www.epicureanfriends.com)
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This might be a good place to start!

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4401-the-use-of-negation-in-epicurean-philosophy-concepts/?postID=34893#post34893>