

Illustrations and Analogies For Explaining the "Two And Only Two Feelings" Argument

Post by "Todd" of May 20, 2026 at 8:28 PM

The Full Vessel

This one doesn't make sense to me.

I've always liked this example, and I think it was useful to me when I was first learning about Epicurus.

My understanding of the cup model (which could be incorrect):

The cup represents us or our life at any given time. The liquid is pleasure. The unfilled volume is pain. The point is once the cup is full, all pain has been removed, and there is no more room to add pleasure.

This article seems to imply that the cup can only be full or empty - but why? A cup can obviously be partially full.

Maybe it's trying to make a different analogy, and I'm confused because I'm used to the usual one?