

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

Post by "Todd" of May 21, 2026 at 6:18 PM

My thoughts on the Sedley paper

I think it makes a lot of sense. The parallels are certainly suggestive.

In my opinion, Sedley's framework is most useful for filling in gaps in our understanding of Epicurus' ethics. For one thing, I think it gives additional credence to On Ends (subject to the usual caveats about Cicero), and it relatively devalues the Letter to Menoecus.

I have the impression that you see something in the the paper as useful for helping explain Epicurus to newcomers. If so, I don't see what that would be. But maybe I'm mistaken.

Incidentally...

Sedley seems to argue Epicurus was saying we *do* pursue pleasure, rather than that we *should*. Of course, he is following Torquatus, so that is not too surprising.