

Did Epicurus Create a Finished Product?

Post by "Cassius" of August 4, 2019 at 5:13 PM

That's a good question but my answer to that would be along the lines that whether you consider it finished or evolving, the key ethical insight of Epicurus was that the faculty of feeling - pleasure and pain - is the end point of the analysis (or the starting point). Epicurus doesn't give a set of rules to follow and he would be the first to say that one size doesn't fit all, and that circumstances change. But I think he would also say that the ultimate guide remains the faculty of feeling, so that's what we look to, even while acknowledging that it isn't a rule that is set in stone and unchanging.

I see this as closely related to skepticism and the limits of skepticism. Epicurus was looking for (and I think found) the proper perspective on the issue of certainty vs skepticism. We aren't ever going to find absolute truth, but we have good reason to be content with the "truth" that is available to us, and we don't have to / shouldn't agonize ourselves over standards of certainty that are unattainable.