

Welcome Max Duboff

Post by "Cassius" of July 14, 2026 at 2:56 PM

Max - The extension of the katastematic priority argument to the gods tells me that it's time to call an end to this debate.

Emily Austin was correct in "Living For Pleasure" both when she named her book and when she refused to wade into the katastematic/kinetic issue which has turned into far more of a morass than the texts justify. As she did in endorsing the general Gosling & Taylor position on this issue, this forum too has prioritized that position and I have discouraged the divisions that erupt from it - as they have here. Austin's book was not written for academics, and this forum was not started for academics. We have many more important issues to address.

This forum has been very very clear for many years that we are here to promote [classical Epicurean philosophy](#) in which the supreme good is pleasure. There are many people who do not agree with that for many reasons. This forum is not here to provide an endless debate platform for those who think that Epicurus should have constructed his philosophy differently - as a value dualist, as Tranquillist prioritizing katastematic pleasure, or anything else.

Max you have been a pleasure to talk with, but it is time for me to take steps to get this forum back on the track for which it was founded.

Thank you for the lively discussion, but I am now closing your account. To be clear, no other person on this forum has participated in this decision other than myself. All blame that might attach to this action belongs with me and no one else.

I wish you the best in all your future endeavors.

Cassius

As has been stated at the top of this forum from well before Max joined us, this is the formulation of [Classical Epicurean philosophy](#) that this forum is here to promote. Not a *certain type of pleasure*, but *Pleasure*.

"If then even the glory of the Virtues, on which all the other philosophers love to expatiate so eloquently, has in the last resort no meaning unless it be based on Pleasure, whereas Pleasure is the only thing that is intrinsically attractive and alluring, it cannot be doubted that Pleasure is the one supreme and final Good and that a life of happiness is nothing else than a life of Pleasure."

Cicero's Torquatus - On Ends Book 1

Hospes, hic bene manebis; hic summum bonum voluptas est. -- "Stranger, here you will do well to tarry; here our highest good is pleasure."

Seneca, Letters to Lucilius 21.10