

# The Nature of Work

**Post by "Cassius" of February 22, 2021 at 12:03 PM**

In my view this is another of those positions that has both "logical" and "observational" sides.

It is observationally true that as long as you are alive and conscious you can summon up at least pleasant memories of the past.

But I also think this is another one of those "logical" positions in that the definition of "continuous" is important to consider. Just because some degree of pleasurable experience is continuously available that does not mean that simultaneously you are not experiencing lots of pain in the non-pleasurable parts of your consciousness.

I don't think the implication of continuous pleasure means that the "sum total" of all our experience at a particular moment is pleasurable, but that's the subtlety that needs to be explored. I am thinking that the issue is more that pleasure is continuously available to at least some degree, and therefore can still serve as the guide of life up until such time as we have no more opportunity and then it's time to die.

But I also do think that Epicurus believed that "generally" the "sum total" of our experience is enough within our control that we should in fact aim for and probably achieve a "sum total" in which the majority of experience is pleasurable most of the time. I am sure that he would acknowledge that there are very sad exceptions to that, but in general that is not a goal that is unobtainable, such as if one were to expect to actually achieve "total pleasure all the time." That would be something in theory for the gods in the intermundia, but not possible here.