

## Practical exercises: PD2

Post by “Cassius” of July 5, 2021 at 12:17 PM

### [Quote from Godfrey](#)

At least for me, it reinforces the understanding that if we can find pleasure even in death, we can certainly find pleasure in each moment of living.

Correct me if I am wrong, but I think you probably mean "if we can find pleasure even in THINKING ABOUT death....."??

I would draw a very bright line and never get close to implying anything that indicates that we can find pleasure in actually being dead. I gather that there are in fact people (and Don's translation includes that part) who argue that it is better never to be born, or to go to death quickly if we are alive, and they have apparently some elaborate rationalization why that is generally to be preferred.

I think Epicurus stands for the exact opposite - that pleasure is the focus of life; that only the living experience pleasure or pain; that life is the only opportunity that we have for pleasure, and that we would never give up live voluntarily expect in those circumstances where we have confidence that to live on would bring much more pain than pleasure.

It sounds to me like some versions of Eastern thought (including some forms of judaism) take the position that death and or nothingness are superior to life, and I would strongly advocate never coming near any attempt to reconcile or make peace with those views, as they seem to be exactly what Epicurus is arguing strongly against.