

Carl Sagan, the 4th dimension, episode 20 of Lucretius Today, physics

Post by "Don" of August 17, 2021 at 1:47 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

[Quote from Don](#)

Which is the definition of the "greatest good."

Well you SAY that, but I am not sure Epicurus would enthusiastically endorse that exact construction. 😊

Is that in the PDS or even the letter to Menorceus? I don't think that "greatest good" appears there, does it?

We need to define terms. What are we referring to in the texts when we use "the good" or "the greatest good"? Are we talking about when Epicurus only uses ταγαθον (tagathon) "the good" as it appears in the Tetrapharmakos or Fragment 67 (can't conceive of "the good" ταγαθον without...)?

Or the "primary and innate good" in the Letter to Menoikeus:

"This is why we say that pleasure is the **beginning and the end** of a **completely happy life**. For we recognize it as the **primary and innate good**, we honor it in **everything we accept or reject**, and we achieve it if we judge every good thing by the standard of how that thing affects us."

Are we referring to what Epicurus calls the telos? Cicero and Lucretius's summum bonum?

I think it might behoove is to gather every mention of each of these and their context and how they're defined. Otherwise, we're groping around in the dark.