

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

Post by "Don" of August 17, 2021 at 4:42 PM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

I agree with all that as a matter of one way of presenting the logic of stating that pleasure is the alpha and omega and all that. However in the end the logical statement comes back to the "feeling" of pleasure which is not something that can be uniformly defined for all people at all places and all times.

It's not a statement of logic. Epicurus was identifying the one thing - given to us by nature or natural selection/evolution - not gods, not God, not logic - that we could steer our own little boats by. Those feelings of pleasure and pain are the only reliable guides - not virtue, not logic. He wasn't positing a logical argument. He was pointing out what nature had provided for us. He didn't think it needed a logical proof because it was self-evident. Pleasure is "the end fixed by nature" in the Letter to Menoikeus. [PD25](#) talks about "refer each of your actions to the end prescribed by nature."

PS: This is the other quote from DL X.137 I was looking for:

## Quote from Diogenes Laertius

..as proof that pleasure is the end [Epicurus] adduces the fact that living things, so soon as they are born, are well content with pleasure and are at enmity with pain, by the prompting of nature and apart from reason.