

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

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Joshua I like the compass analogy, but thinking about it further I have some reservations. The compass can show us where north is, but most often our goal isn't actually to travel north. So it's a reference, but pleasure is more properly a direct guide. I think this is one reason why True North has a troublesome Platonic feel.

As for the old man, it's not so much that he's followed the guide, or compass, of pleasure for his whole life. Speaking from my experience it's more a matter of learning from a series of mistakes to pay attention to the guide. Using another compass analogy: just as a compass wavers back and forth before settling on north, a young person is still wavering in search of the target but the old person has finished wavering and settled onto the target.