

# An Epicurean Understanding of Pleasure

Post by "Don" of October 8, 2021 at 12:38 PM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

I would say that may be too broad. Can't we desire to feel pain in order to experience more pleasure later?

We choose to experience pain for a larger **pleasure**. We don't desire to experience pain.

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

On the other hand, while we are feeling pain or pleasure we are feeling it without thinking why - we just feel it.

Right. We feel pleasure and pain resulting from a specific desire being fulfilled.

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

Is not a desire somehow more "willed" while pleasure and pain are simply reactions?

Desires are conscious thoughts - "longings" - for something.

Pleasure and pain are the feelings we experience which help us choose which desires to fulfill and which to reject.

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

That gets back to pathe right? A desire is not a pathe is it?

A desire is an επιθυμια epithymia; pain and pleasure are παθη pathe. Yes, two different words. Two different "things."