

Collecting Ancient Instances of the Argument: "Pleasure Cannot Be The Highest Good Because It Has No Limit"

Post by "Pacatus" of December 27, 2021 at 5:21 PM

"Natural desires are limited; but those which spring from false opinion can have no stopping point. The false has no limits."

If Seneca is agreeing with Epicurus here (which it seems he sometimes did), then it seems in conflict with the conclusion in the 2nd quote: "The ability to increase is proof that a thing is still imperfect."

But why are "limits" a sign of imperfection? (That 2nd quote seems to be question-begging.) It can be recognition of the limit of a given pleasurable activity that keeps us from going over the tipping point, where it becomes painful (e.g., overeating). I might suggest that Nature has armed us as well as possible to enjoy a pleasurable/pleasant life of happy well-being. And that Epicurus got that right.

Sorry for wandering astray from the thread's request ...