

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

Post by "Cassius" of December 30, 2021 at 3:02 PM

[Quote from Scott](#)

One could for instance argue that something hypothetically perfect must have NO limits, NO limitations.

And yes that takes you to Christian / monotheistic omnipotence and omniscience.

And that's why the Epicurean physics is so important: if you learn the basics at the beginning as Epicurus intended, and understand the critical importance of consistency, then you realize the folly in pursuing hypotheticals that have (and can have, given your physics positions) no existence in fact. This is one of the areas that Don and I and others have talked about in terms of resisting abstract hypotheticals, and why it's recorded that Epicurus himself was averse to them.

We can imagine anything we want, and we can make hypothetical systems that are consistent within themselves, yet which have no foundation in the real world observable to our senses.

You should keep after this argument Scott until you've satisfied yourself with it, because it's one of the core arguments that will forever separate Epicurus from the world of religion and abstract logic -- and will forever make those opposing schools the mortal enemy of Epicurus.

We as Epicureans may appear to be riding safely on a wave of secularism in recent decades and centuries, but the issues are must deeper than Epicurus against Judeo-Christianity -- it's also Epicurus against the misuse of abstract logical speculation.