

Article by Voorhoeve: Epicurus on Pleasure, A Complete Life, and Death: A Defense

Post by "Cassius" of March 4, 2022 at 10:02 AM

Ok, this is his conclusion, and I pretty much wholeheartedly reject it. The word "pleasure" is mentioned but once and then in the context of "The pleasures of Tranquility." This is Tranquillism, not - in my view - what Epicurus taught. ~~pleasure, but also as recognizably good, at least in important respects.~~

In sum, the view outlined is as follows.

Epicurean good and complete life: Through theoretical and ethical reasoning (which helps one come to a more accurate picture of reality and of the good life), through wise shaping of one's character, and through prudent choices regarding one's relationships and circumstances, one renders oneself nearly invulnerable and attains the pleasures of tranquillity. Once the tranquil state is achieved, more time in this state does not make one's life any better than it would be if one died after a shorter period in this state, because one desires life in this state only conditionally. In this sense, one's life is complete upon attaining the tranquil state. Nonetheless, life in this state is good and welcome, since it is enjoyable and satisfies one's conditional desire to live in that state rather than with anxiety or in pain.