

Plato's Philebus and the Limit of Pleasure

Post by “Kalosyni” of May 26, 2022 at 9:52 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Nature's wants are slight; the demands of opinion are boundless.

This quote is from post # 5 above -- This would be [PD15](#). And it is expanding on the idea of "limits" on pleasure from a slightly different angle than PD3. In a sense it is a blend of both Plato's and Epicurus' arguments.

I think modern civilization is inseparable from the "demands of opinion" -- the idea that clothing, cars, homes, etc must all look new or well kept. And we recognize classes of people by their appearance and the appearance of their possessions, or by the state of the neighborhoods in which they live. These kinds of pleasures have no limit. You will have to invest time and effort toward these pleasures -- and much more difficult to fulfill for those who do not have enough money to spend -- and in some situations people work long and hard hours to fulfill these pleasures, so that any pleasure gained by this means is negated by the time and stress. And then this points also toward what types of pleasures to pursue, and that "natural" pleasures can be fulfilled and are achievable (thus have a limit) -- and give a longer lasting feeling of fulfillment.