

PD19 And The Meaning Of No "Greater" Pleasure

Post by "Cassius" of August 22, 2022 at 2:29 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

because modern life is really at odds with being "pain free or untroubled".

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Also, it came to me early this morning, that life requires a certain amount of "striving" or work.

I think both of those observations are true now and to a large extent have always been true - even in Epicurus' time - and we have to understand him on the presumption that he understood that too, and he was not putting forth something that is unrealistic.

Meaning NOT that we can attain those goals by ruthlessly diminishing desires and living in a cave on bread and water, but that Epicurus too understood the necessary stress and striving of life, and that he incorporated that into his advice. Epicurus himself never reached full absence of pain in body, and I bet he didn't in mind either. But he formulated a **goal** which helped him and us by providing something to shoot for, and that helps us calculate each step along the way.

That's why in addition to word structures for the goal, we need music and art and even poetry to help get emotionally attached to and focused on the goal to see that it is worthwhile.