

Episode One Hundred Thirty Eight - Letter to Menoecus 5 - Pleasure Part One

Post by “Godfrey” of September 6, 2022 at 1:15 AM

[Joshua](#) made an interesting point when he said, if I'm quoting correctly, that desire is a Feeling of pain.

My understanding is different, but I think that it's a valuable point to discuss. I've made the point in other threads that desire and pleasure should not be confused. However I've been on the fence about desire and pain. For now I'll push the idea that desire is *not* a pain but that it *leads* to pain. I think that current neuroscience shows pleasure/pain and desire to be caused by different chemical processes: maybe [Don](#) or [reneliza](#) would care to weigh in on this.

[PD10](#) and [PD11](#) both mention pain and desire, which is why I was previously on the fence. But as I read them now, it appears that these PDs treat them as different things.

[PD10](#) *"If the objects which are productive of pleasures to profligate persons really freed them from fears of the mind—the fears, I mean, inspired by celestial and atmospheric phenomena, the fear of death, the fear of pain—if, further, they taught them to limit their desires, we should not have any reason to censure such persons, for they would then be filled with pleasure to overflowing on all sides and would be exempt from all pain, whether of body or mind, that is, from all evil."* Hicks (1910)

This seems to be making a clear distinction between pain and desire.

[PD11](#) *"If we had never been molested by alarms at celestial and atmospheric phenomena, nor by the misgiving that death somehow affects us, nor by neglect of the proper limits of pains and desires, we should have had no need to study natural science."* Hicks (1910)

However this one isn't so clear. But for now I'm sticking to the idea that desire is not a Feeling.