

Principal Doctrine Three - The Full Tank Analogy

Post by "Cassius" of February 5, 2019 at 9:03 AM

Epicurus Principal Doctrine 3:

The magnitude of pleasure reaches its limit in the removal of all pain. When such pleasure is present, so long as it is uninterrupted, there is no pain either of body or of mind or of both together.



The tank of your car contains air and gasoline. The most gas the tank can contain is when gas is added and all air is displaced from the tank.



Your life seen as a vessel contains pleasures and pains. The most pleasure life can contain is when pleasure is added and all pain is displaced from life.

In neither case does the thing being measured change when the point of being "Full" is reached. When the tank is emptied of air it is then full of the same gas that was being measured as it was being filled, and when your life is emptied of pain it is full of the same ordinary pleasures that were being experienced as it was being filled. And when the tank is full of gas or the life is full of pleasures, there is no more air or pain, and no more gas or pleasure can be added – only the contents can be varied.

"...Nothing is preferable to a life of tranquility crammed full of pleasures."

Cicero, referring to Epicurean doctrine in his defense of Publius Sestius 10.23

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