

Perspectives On "Proving" That Pleasure is "The Good"

Post by "Don" of December 21, 2022 at 7:27 AM

LOL! I like your "clickbait" caveat 😊

I was with you up until the end but let me try to at least explain why I don't *fully* embrace your post there.

I see your reference to DeWitt 's "summum bonum fallacy" and I've expressed my skepticism for that DeWittean idea before on the forum. As I remember her rests his argument on the fact that Latin doesn't have a definite article and that always seemed weak to me.

I also think that many times (myself included) have equated English "highest good" as "the best good." While "summum" means 'top, summit" I don't interpret that as "best" as in quality. It's the "good" that's reached at the end, it's the good to which will other goods point. Metaphorically, if you're walking up the path past all other goods asking "What is behind this? Why do I do this?" You'll end up finding at the summit the moving toward pleasure (and avoiding pain).

All the ancient philosophies asked the question "What is it to which all goods point?" Epicurus had an answer, and a powerful one.

I've explained my take on this in my commentary to Book 1 of Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics:

[Epicurean Sage - Nichomachean Ethics Book 1](#)

< Back to Nichomachean Ethics homepage Nicomachean Ethics starts out with: "Every art and every investigation, and likewise every practical pursuit or...
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