

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

**Post by "Eikadistes" of December 21, 2022 at 10:57 AM**

I concur with @Don's approach to this discussion insofar as acknowledging the difference Epicurus delineates between ΑΓΑΘΟΣ , which refers to instrumental objectives that further an individual toward a greater goal, versus ΤΑΓΑΘΟΝ, which *is* the greater goal of life (*for which the former objectives are merely instruments*).

I agree that Pleasure is not "a good", in that it would be inappropriate within the context of Epicurus' teachings to place "a good" in the same category as "The Good". Pleasure is The End, and the virtues are means by which to acquire that end.

Keep in mind, as well, that Epicurus refers to Pleasure as the "first Good" and "the beginning and end of the blessed life", but, he reserves the "*highest* good" for "prudence" (or "practical wisdom"). While translators throw around "good", "goods", "Good", and "The Good" somewhat ambivalently, Epicurus distinguishes all of the other "goods" (typically identified as "virtues"), including the "highest good" (being "prudence", the most important virtue) from "The Good" (which is not a virtue, but The Goal). As Epicurus writes to Menoikeus, "it is to obtain this end that we always act".