

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

Post by "Eikadistes" of December 21, 2022 at 11:23 AM

[Quote from Todd](#)

But don't you think all these different meanings of "good" is contributing to the problem?

Of course, we do need to untangle all that and understand what Epicurus was actually saying. Definitely.

But I think we need better terminology if we're planning to make any kind of outreach.

Agreed. We have (1) "good" the general adjective to refer to "being favorable"; we have (2) a "good" which is a philosophical category of virtues, we have (3) "good" used poetically by Epicurus to express Pleasure with respect to virtues, and we have (4) "The Good" which is the Goal in life toward which all other goods are instrumental.

I think, just in terms of making our vocabulary work *for* us and not *against* us, we can refer to "goods" as "*virtues*" or "*instruments*", and then "The Good" can be identified, variously, as "The Goal", The "*End*", or "The *Telos*".

Otherwise, it takes a more advanced understanding to deconstruct the fact that "goods are good because they lead to The Good, which is the first and last good, but not a good like the other goods, and also, not the highest good, which is the best good among goods, but the best good among goods is not The Good, which is *technically* not a good at all."