

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

Post by "Godfrey" of December 22, 2022 at 5:03 PM

Quote



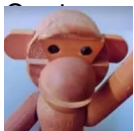
[Quote from Godfrey](#) 3. In light of 2, I think that we all agree that pleasure is the positive/attractive part of the faculty of Feelings. As such, a prudent understanding of one's feelings and desires is the core of Epicurean ethics.

Yes, of course.

However, saying things in such a general way that no one could possibly disagree and still call themselves an Epicurean is not interesting to me (possibly a personal failing).

I was mainly trying to clarify a point of agreement with that comment, bc I was losing track of where the discussion was going.

Quote



[Quote from Godfrey](#) 4. Pleasure is good. It's a good. It's The Good. It feels good. It's everything described in the previous 138 posts.

👍 for the clever way of putting that.

But this strikes me as a rather bland, (somewhat) non-controversial flavor of Epicureanism. I would like to be able to make stronger claims, and to do that, you have to be very clear on what words actually mean and how concepts relate. Again, this is possibly a personal failing of mine.

Definitely not a personal failing!

This comment 4 was a tongue-halfway-in-cheek way of saying, in conjunction with 3, that (at least for me) it's more productive to discuss "pleasure" than "good." I don't call this bland or

non-controversial; consider

- there is no supernatural
- there is no life after death
- the basis of ethics is pleasure
- Plato and Aristotle were in many ways misguided and misleading
- the starting point of philosophy is the individual, not the polis

These five assertions have made opponents apoplectic for 2300 years! Just the idea that the basis of ethics is pleasure drives people crazy. But I wasn't trying to derail the discussion as much as clarify the parameters. Good discussion!