

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

Post by "Don" of December 24, 2022 at 6:10 PM

Regardless of the origin of the debate over the telos/goal/good, it was a debate that had been raging, if we go back to Protagoras, for around 200 years by the time Epicurus was formalizing his philosophy.

I maintain that Epicurus was more than happy to put on his gloves and box in that arena. He wasn't intimidated, because he felt he had seen the knockout punch (to continue the metaphor). He didn't try to dodge their punches or claim the fight was illegitimate. He loudly declared that pleasure was The Good, and everyone else's choice was simply in service to pleasure. He used the terminology of the debate throughout his writing, using variations but hitting home that he had the answer to this centuries-old debate.