

What Are The Possible Reasons (And Of These, The Most Likely) Why The List of 40 Principal Doctrines Does Not Feature A Statement Explicitly Stating Pleasure To Be The Goal of Life?

Post by "Don" of February 13, 2023 at 11:12 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Principal Doctrine 1

<<Prev | [Principal Doctrines](#) | Next>>

Τὸ μακάριον καὶ ἀφθαρτον οὔτε αὐτὸ πράγματα ἔχει οὔτε ἄλλω παρέχει, ὥστε
That which is blessed and indestructible neither → → has (any) [trouble itself] nor → does it cause (trouble) [for anyone else] so that

οὔτε ὀργαῖς οὔτε χάρισι συνέχεται· ἐν ἀσθενεῖ γὰρ πᾶν τὸ τοιοῦτον.
[It has no part] either in anger or in favors → → because all → such (things are only for) [the weak]

[Don](#), as our resident Greek expert, what is your assessment of the possibility that [PD01](#) is not a reference to the gods alone, but is intended to be a reference to the best life for humans as well as gods, and thus serves as a reference to pleasure (the opposite of pain as stated in PDO3) being the goal?

It's possible... Maybe. But I'd also reference DL 10.121:

121] Two sorts of happiness (eudaimonia) can be conceived, the one the highest possible, such as the gods enjoy, which cannot be augmented, the other admitting addition and subtraction of pleasures.

121] Τὴν εὐδαιμονίαν διχῆ νοεῖσθαι, τὴν τε ἀκροτάτην, οἷα ἐστὶ περὶ τὸν θεόν, ἐπίτασιν οὐκ ἔχουσιν: καὶ τὴν <κατὰ τὴν> προσθήκην καὶ ἀφαίρεσιν ἡδονῶν.