

The Definitive "Chrysippus' Hand Argument" Thread

Post by "Don" of April 19, 2023 at 3:03 PM

Running Chryssipus' line thru Google translate:

"Does your hand, so affected, as it is now affected, long for it?"

That final desiderat can mean desire or long for. Lack has different semantic baggage in English.

It seems to me that he's saying if pleasure is the highest good, how could your hand (or whatever body part) desire pleasure (since it's the highest good to which we're supposed to strive) if it was in a state in which it didn't desire anything. How could it be in a state where it didn't desire the highest good? Epicurus would say it's exactly that state of no pain that is pleasure itself, as opposed to the Cyrenaics who would claim that is a neutral state, neither pleasure nor pain.