

Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2023 at 5:13 PM

Important caveat to post 59:

While I am comfortable dogmatically stating that the absence of pain is pleasure, and the total absence of pain is the greatest pleasure, and that there is nothing bad in any pleasure or virtue in itself except the *unlimited* pursuit of that activity, I would never walk up to the man on the street or stand on the street corner and shout that out like a street preacher.

To me it is necessary to always say - except when we are certain to be speaking to people who know what we mean - that "Yes I believe that pleasure is the absence of pain, and yes I believe that no pleasure is a bad thing in itself, but let me explain to you now *why* I believe that.

I think Epicurus gave his explanations in his other writings besides Menoecus, and I think that Torquatus would have given a much longer explanation if Cicero had allowed him.