

Would You Rather Live For A Week As (1) Epicurus During the Last Week of His Life or (2) An Anonymous Shepherd Laying In The Grass In The Summertime With No Pain At All?

Post by "Don" of September 8, 2023 at 6:36 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

In this case: Are all pleasures equally to be chosen? If so, how do we choose among them? If not, why not?

No.

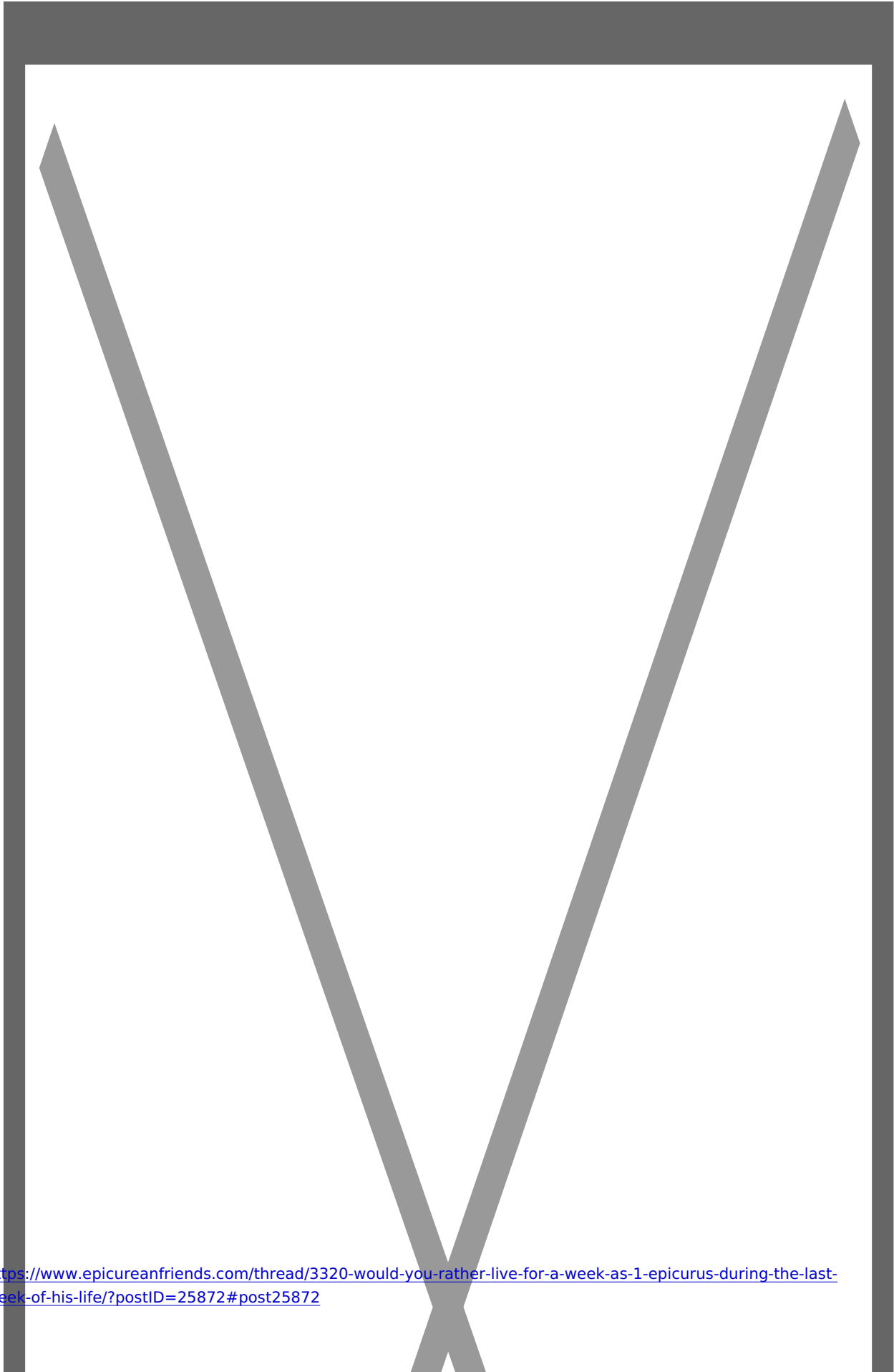
Epicurus was concerned with our entire existence: the well-being of both our physical (σώματος) and mental (ψυχῆς) health. By contemplating and following his philosophy, we come to understand that all our decisions of which actions to choose and from which actions to flee are going to affect whether our physical, material health and well-being are to be maintained or not and whether our minds are to be troubled or not. That is the baseline for every decision and with "Ask this question of every desire: what will happen to me if the object of desire is achieved, and what if not?"

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Another warmup question might be: "A former Torquatus put his son to death for violating a military rule, and our Torquatus justified that as a decision consistent in nature with an Epicurean perspective. This despite the other Epicurean rule that we sometimes die for a friend. Does that tell us anything about the Epicurean position for choosing among pleasures and pains?"

For the earlier Torquatus, he decided security and order in his troops was more important than the life of his son. That sounds horrific, but I'm also not an ancient Roman general commanding a legion. The fruits of his decision were strict discipline under his command. Was it worth it? Did it provide well-being? You'd have to ask Titus Manlius Imperiosus Torquatus

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<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3320-would-you-rather-live-for-a-week-as-1-epicurus-during-the-last-week-of-his-life/?postID=25872#post25872>

[Titus Manlius Imperiosus Torquatus - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus_Manlius_Imperiosus_Torquatus)
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