

# 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 9, 2023 at 6:18 AM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

[PD19](#). Finite time and infinite time contain the same amount of joy, if its limits are measured out through reasoning.

To be clear, where Saint-Andre uses "joy" the Greek is *hēdonē* "pleasure." My take on that PD is that if the definition of the limit of pleasure is the removal of all pain (and after that it's just variety) it doesn't matter the amount of time, finite or infinite. If your pleasure glass is full, it's full.

But I always go back to this commentary from Diogenes Laertius when talking about Epicurus's take on *eudaimonia*:

Quote from Diogenes Laertius, 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.

It's always tricky when trying to compare what texts mean when different words are used: pleasure vs happiness. 121 doesn't say two kinds of pleasure but two kinds of well-being. I do NOT think we could substitute well-being for pleasure in [PD19](#), but does verse 121 inform, in any way, our understanding of the PDs? Questions beget questions.