

Episode 196 - The Epicurean Arguments In Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 06

Post by "Cassius" of October 15, 2023 at 4:56 PM

I think analogies would help.

My first suggestion is an EKG, with the normal heartbeat (which is in motion) beating in a regular pattern. The two types of pleasure included by Epicurus under the word "pleasure" would be (1) the normal regular heartbeat (pictured) and also (2) an agreeable (pleasurable) stimulation in which the heartbeat is faster/stronger but still regular.

A disagreeable (painful) stimulation would be irregular or misshapen patterns.

— since it is normal:



Cicero would assert that picture does not illustrate pleasure, and that it would not illustrate pleasure unless the pattern deviated to be faster/stronger than normal.

I presume that a seismograph or an oscilloscope could be used for similar analogies. As long as life goes "humming along" normally we are in pleasure, but when the sound gets distorted for any reason, that is pain.