

# Episode 202 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 10 - The Animality Argument

Post by “waterholic” of November 23, 2023 at 12:38 AM

Thanks again for the great episode.

I know this is may be the last place to bring in mathematics, but it does help me to clear up the key confusion:

**"If you remove all pain, that's pleasure."**

In all his observations Epicurus is almost "mechanistic" or in this case - biological. 1. We experience the world with our senses (memories are a special case

2. Any stimulus provides us with a set of quantities of pain and pleasure: (pa, pl)

3. At any given point in time we experience a combined sum of those (sum(pa), sum(pl)).

4. Now if you remove all pain, all we are left is pleasure. And since most of stimuli provide us with non-zero amount of pleasure, there is definitely pleasure even if you are at rest, with no excessive stimulation (sex, drugs etc.)

This also explains the statement that pleasure and pain cannot be mixed. Additionally, this removes the uneasy breakdown of "types of pleasure". There are no types of pleasure, there are different activities and stimuli, each contributing "atomic units" of pleasure and pain.

And of course, having come to Epicurus through Cicero, I should be thankful to him, for his outright open hostility and not very well disguised mental gymnastics were the triggers for me. He understands quite well, but finds these thoughts too dangerous for the perfect state he dreams of.

Any references to such an understanding in sources or do I misunderstand?