

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

Post by “waterholic” of November 23, 2023 at 9:55 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Waterholic I am not sure about the impact of the "all."

When the Epicureans reference removal of "all" pain don't they immediately equate that with "the height of pleasure"?

You raise the issue we are discussing: does "all" pain have to be removed before any pleasure is experienced? I presume the answer is "no."

[Cassius](#) this part is also quite intuitive. I totally agree, you don't need to remove all pain to experience pleasure, in fact that is practically impossible to achieve.

But you do have a relative proportion of pain and pleasure buckets, and it is this relative proportion that defines how you feel. The height of pleasure can be understood as an asymptote: removing all pain gets you to the state where the proportion of pleasure (no matter how little) is maximum and that's as best as one can feel.

Perhaps not worth it, but for clarity, such a mathematical model could be derived (not to confuse with the perfect form of mathematics, it's just a language).