

Episode 203 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 11 - Do The Senses Have Jurisdiction To Pronounce On The Supreme Good?

Post by "Don" of November 27, 2023 at 12:35 PM

[Quote from TauPhi](#)

[Quote from Don](#)

We can't decide whether something is pleasurable or painful. It's immediate, pre-rational.

Am I missing something here? If this would be the case, we could throw Epicurean calculus out of a window, forget about any form of philosophy and jump from the nearest, highest building because flying sounds like something cool to do this Monday evening.

Good point. I should clarify my point.

My understanding is that we can experience pleasure or pain, per Epicurus and modern neuroscience (pleasure vs displeasure/pain). The feeling itself is automatic. You experience one of the two. That's why you pull your hand away from a hot stove. That's why you make yummy noises when you eat something you enjoy.

That said, we can *choose* whether or not to engage in an experience - to fulfill a desire - be it one we anticipate pleasure or one we anticipate will be painful that leads to pleasure.

But the feeling *itself* is pleasurable or painful before we put a rational value on it.