

Pleasure And Pain Modeled With Math

Post by "Cassius" of December 2, 2023 at 9:15 AM

As one more aside, I see that in some of our recent Cicero reading that the wording is "life accompanied by pleasure" and "life accompanied by pain" as the way the issue is being described. While the "life" part is probably something to be clearly presumed, I wonder if in our current state of world corruption that the "life" part needs to be added back in to take account of the fact that pleasure and pain do not occur except for the living. And would that also not make clear why we would sometime choose death rather than "*life accompanied by total pain.*"

I am not at all sure of that but one of the recent sections in Book 1 or 2 did seem to use (at least Reid translated it as) "life accompanied by" --- and that *might* be significant.

EDIT:

Book 2 ==

XII. Again, the truth that pleasure is the supreme good can be most easily apprehended from the following consideration. Let us imagine an individual in the enjoyment of pleasures great, numerous and constant, both mental and bodily, with no pain to thwart or threaten them; I ask what circumstances can we describe as more excellent than these or more desirable? A man whose circumstances are such must needs possess, as well as other things, a robust mind subject to no fear of death or pain, because death is apart from sensation, and pain when lasting is usually slight, when oppressive is of short duration, so that its temporariness reconciles us to its intensity, and its slightness to its continuance. When in addition we suppose that such a man is in no awe of the influence of the gods, and does not allow his past pleasures to slip away, but takes delight in constantly recalling them, what circumstance is it possible to add to these, to make his condition better? Imagine on the other hand a man worn by the greatest mental and bodily pains which can befall a human being, with no hope before him that his lot will ever be lighter, and moreover destitute of pleasure either actual or probable; what more pitiable object can be mentioned or imagined? But if a life replete with pains is above all things to be shunned, then assuredly the supreme evil is life accompanied by pain; and from this view it is a consistent inference that the climax of things good is life accompanied by pleasure.