

Episode 204 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 12 - More On The "Jurisdiction" Question

Post by "Don" of December 9, 2023 at 12:44 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Well, isn't deciding whether something is pleasing or painful an "evaluation" of at least a sort?

I don't think so. Pleasure and pain have an automatic component to them. For example:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0007091219302387>

Quote

Pain is recognized to have both a sensory dimension (intensity) and an affective dimension (unpleasantness). Pain feels like a single unpleasant bodily experience, but investigations of human pain have long considered these two dimensions of pain to be separable and differentially modifiable.

There's also this paper: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4425246/>

That first paper talks about the sensory component of pain and then the "affective" dimension - the "feeling" of pleasantness or unpleasantness that follows (what seems like simultaneously). It seems to me that there is a sensory stimulus - if pain, touching a hot rack in the oven - our brains have predicted that we're if we experience damage to our hand if we let it in this spot, and immediately - automatically - pulls it away. Almost, but not quite, the "feeling" of displeasure is associated with that stimulus. THEN we can think cognitively *after* that that "I need to never do that again! That hurts! That's certainly not good!" We put a *value* judgement on the act - on the feeling - after we experience the sensory input and the pain in quick succession. Then we can cognitively think about "How stupid!" and all kinds of other thoughts.