

Episode 216 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 23 - Why Does Epicurus Say Length Of Time Does Not Contribute To Pleasure?

Post by “Godfrey” of February 28, 2024 at 6:43 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

This gets blurry as well in asking "are we talking about concepts vs things that have a material existence?"

Good question, but I sense a rabbit hole!!!

Here's a shot at it: "Idealism" as I've used the term is defined as a worldview that believes in perfect, ideal "Forms" that exist in some higher plane than the material world. "Materialism" as I've used the term is defined as a worldview that believes that everything that exists is either atom (physical) or void (empty, nothing).

Where the rabbit hole appears is where you try to figure out if any idea in the material world is physical or non-physical. The proper distinction, in my mind, is whether there are ideas that exist outside of the material world and in some higher dimension. It seems to me that Cicero and the Stoics both see ideas such as honor, virtue, courage as existing "out there" in a higher plane. This is why, for instance, the Stoics say that almost nobody can be truly Virtuous. Virtue in this case is more than an idea, it's a perfect "Ideal".