

The Axiology of Pain and Pleasure (are they intrinsic good/bad ?)

Post by "Godfrey" of May 27, 2024 at 8:35 PM

Quote

Hedonism, philosophically speaking, is "the ethical theory that pleasure (in the sense of the satisfaction of desires) is the highest good and proper aim of human life." (Apple Dictionary)

A case can be made that Epicurus was a psychological hedonist. That might negate MP's entire argument, although he seems to be equating that with his evolutionary angle.

Where he is completely missing the boat (at least in the portion up to the pay wall) is by separating pleasure/pain from sensations and anticipations. Epicurus presented these three as a unified group of faculties with which we make decisions, supplemented by reason. By ignoring this fact he's taking the Ciceronian path of argument by omission.