

Would Epicurus say: "Infinite Time contains no more pain than limited time when the limit of pain is measured by reason?"

Post by "Cassius" of July 22, 2024 at 8:02 AM

Then the question arises, given the need to be suspicious of Seneca's Stoic-disposed formulations, whether being 'full' is necessarily the same thing as being satisfied?"

I can see a strong possibility of categorizing "satisfaction" as very subjective, while being "full" implies a much more objective standard. And I can see danger in accepting "being satisfied" at a stage of pleasure that is a lot less than being "full" -- a danger in accepting something that should *not* be accepted when more is in fact possible under the circumstances for that person.

Quote

"This garden," he [the caretaker of the Garden] says, "does not whet your appetite; it quenches it. Nor does it make you more thirsty with every drink; it slakes the thirst by a natural cure, - a cure that demands no fee.

There is a very Buddhist ring to that formulation that looks like a red flag to me.

My life is all too short as it is -- I am not interested in *destroying* my appetite for pleasure, I am interested in *experiencing* pleasure *continuously*, and doing so by understanding how there are different types of pleasure, not by "quenching" pleasure or "curing" pleasure. Those verbs of "quenching" and "curing" are not appropriate as general attitudes toward pleasure. Toward pain, yes, but not pleasure, and not "appetite" or "desire." Prudence is used to steer desire toward its legitimate purpose, not to end desire or stamp it out.

I am coming around to the position that Seneca is a much more dangerous enemy of Epicurus than Cicero ever dreamed of being. Cicero was an honest and straightforward enemy - Seneca is an enemy who seeks to win by twisting Epicurus' words into something very different from their intended meaning.

So I would differ here:

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Pleasure = a feeling of satisfaction and a state of being satisfied.

Pleasure certainly does not EQUAL a feeling of satisfaction.

A feeling of satisfaction may in fact be pleasurable, and ought to be if the circumstances are such that you *should* feel satisfied. But a decision to embrace a feeling of acceptance or "satisfaction" when you have accepted less than you could and should have (if you are truly looking to maximize pleasure and minimize pain) is not in the best interest of a life of pleasure, and should not be viewed positively at all. That's a sell-out and a betrayal, not a positive accomplishment in which to take pleasure.