

Epicurean versus deceptive (“modern”) Stoic decision making

Post by “Julia” of August 13, 2024 at 8:47 AM

[Quote from Martin](#)

I agree, at least in the sense that I am not aware of a meaningful way to compose a desire of smaller units.

Thank you for confirming (always risky to extrapolate from oneself to general human nature). For the time being, I shall maintain my point of view then:

- *desire*: a fundamental unit of experience (cannot be divided into smaller experiences; is not made up of smaller units); by being fundamental in this way, it is simultaneously something we somehow just know (like "sweet taste", "feels warm") and yet very hard to define, to pin down with other words
- *pleasure & pain*: not fundamental units of experience themselves, but innate categories of fundamental experiences. When undistorted by judgements of others (religion, society, ...) and undistorted by scarring life experience (eg "fear of joy" as is possible in PTSD), pleasure is the set of fundamental experiences which humans by nature find agreeable (joy, relief, ...) and pain is the set of fundamental experience which humans by nature find disagreeable (physical-pain, grief, ...). (Moving away from pain is called avoidance. Moving towards pleasure is called play.)