

An Anti-Epicurean Article - "The Meaning of Life Is Not Happiness" (For Future Reference)

Post by "Pacatus" of November 18, 2024 at 4:04 PM

@ Cassius : With regard to the gods, I agree (but there remains the idealist-versus-realist question...). With regard to pleasure=absence of pain, that formula is somewhat dependent on the context of Epicurean philosophy (in which there is no "neutral" state) - much, perhaps, as *pathe* in Stoicism needs to be understood, formulaically, as something other than *eupathe*.

But - on his deathbed, Epicurus was clearly in pain. He was able to find compensating pleasure (and happiness) elsewhere. That is part of the power of the philosophy.

In that context 😊, I think we stop trying for non-contextual understandings generally. A famous (infamous?) Wittgenstein quote on terminology: "Don't look for the meaning; look for the use."