

Episode 267 - Virtue Is Not Absolute Or An End In Itself - All Good And Evil Consists In Sensation.

Post by “Cassius” of February 1, 2025 at 4:48 PM

Regretfully I am going to have to announce another one week postponement of this episode. Several additional conflicts have developed that cause the prudent course to be to record this on February 9th rather than February 2nd.

I have, however, made further progress on the discussion outline, so feel free to reference it here:

[Virtue Is Not Absolute Or An End In Itself Because All Good And Evil Consists In Sensation](#)

As you'll see if you click over there, I've already collected far too many citations to cover in a single episode.

As I see it the most important thing for us to cover as an introductory discussion for new students of Epicurus (and remember, that's our target audience, not professional academics) boils down to something like:

Plato and Aristotle had held that virtue is essential to a happy life, but they defined happiness in terms of rationality or piety to the gods. The Stoics went further and held virtue to be an end in itself, and the same for all people at all times and places. Epicurus rejected virtue as an end in itself, or the same for all, but instead held that virtue is a necessary and inseparable tool, to be applied contextually, for achieving the best life - a life of pleasure.

Also let me repeat that I invite anyone to suggest issues to cover, [as did Matteng in post 5 above.](#)

Matteng's suggestions from Stoic criticisms are good general aspects such as:

- Virtue is in our power but pleasure/tranquility depends on externals
- Without Virtue nothing is good
- Only with virtue can anything be useful

Feel free to add to our list and we'll try to cover them.