

Episode 270 - Life Is Desirable, But Unlimited Time Contains No Greater Pleasure Than Limited Time

Post by "Cassius" of March 2, 2025 at 5:42 PM

As I edit this podcast, if anyone has any recent thoughts on the interplay of these two citations, and why the same word is not used in both places (it appears one implies that the focus is happiness and the other says pleasure), now would be a particularly helpful time to offer them 😊 :

1 Letter to Menoeceus: "We must then meditate on the things that make our happiness, seeing that when that is with us we have all, but when it is absent we do all to win it."

2 On Ends Book One Torquatus: "We are inquiring, then, what is the final and ultimate Good, which as all philosophers are agreed must be of such a nature as to be the End to which all other things are means, while it is not itself a means to anything else. This Epicurus finds in pleasure; pleasure he holds to be the Chief Good, pain the Chief Evil.

It seems that the ultimate key is expressed in sentences to the effect that "a life of happiness IS a life of pleasure" from at least both Diogenes of Oinoanda and Torquatus. I don't think I have exactly the same statement in Lucretius or Epicurus, but presumably they would say the same thing. We might have something similar in Philodemus, but if so I am unable to cite it.

Any thoughts or cites on pithy ways to summarize this relationship?