

The Use of Negation in Epicurean Philosophy Concepts

Post by "Rolf" of April 15, 2025 at 12:14 PM

Thinking aloud here.

"This is not pleasurable" gives me a notably different impression than "this is painful". "This is not pleasurable" brings to my mind some sort of neutral middleground, which as we know does not exist under the Epicurean framework. Perhaps this explains why people get so hung up on "absence of pain" implying some sort of ascetic nirvana-esque state. Not because of unclearness on Epicurus' part, but because they don't know or don't understand the idea that there is *only* pleasure and pain, and the way the brain processes negation points them to this non-existent "neutral third state".

Interesting thread!