

The Use of Negation in Epicurean Philosophy Concepts

Post by “Rolf” of April 16, 2025 at 5:35 AM

I thought about this some more, particularly Homer’s use of negation to imply the greatest degree of something. The word “spotless” came to mind.

“The table is clean” = Sure, it’s clean.

“The table is spotless (without ‘spots’)” = Wow, that is one clean table. The pinnacle of cleanliness.

Thus, “absence of pain” is to “spotless” as “pleasure” is to “clean”.

Spotless and clean refer to the same thing - being free from dirt - but the negative form, spotless, implies the highest degree of cleanliness.

Likewise, “absence of pain” and “pleasure” mean the same thing (considering *only* pleasure and pain exist), but the negative form, “absence of pain”, implies the highest degree of pleasure.