

# Does The Wise Man Groan and Cry Out When On The Rack / Under Torture / In Extreme Pain?

Post by “Cassius” of June 17, 2025 at 4:59 PM

## [Quote from DaveT](#)

I've followed this discussion, but I don't understand why discussions of human behavior in extremis (at the point of death) are relevant to the average person. It sounds like argument for argument's sake. I don't intend to be argumentative, but why should we care how a person's prior state of happiness affects them moments before death? Is that supposed to prove anything about the value of living well?

I think your question helps point to the answer. I agree, the Epicureans would NOT have engaged in an *in extremis* debate unless for the sake of making a larger point. Nor do I think Cicero would. There are deeper issues at stake about the meaning of happiness and under what terms, if any, it can be lost.