

Episode 295 - Plutarch's Absurd Interpretation of Epicurean Absence of Pain

Post by "Rolf" of August 21, 2025 at 3:45 AM

Listening now, nice to hear from Don!

"Animals don't just sit and do nothing after they've eaten, drank, slept. They fly around and play and sing."

Why is this not a good argument against the Epicurean view of pleasure/absence of pain? If the animals have satiated all of their desires/removed all of their pain, should they not sit around and do nothing at that point?

Is it because boredom is a pain? Is it because they're working to ensure that their pleasure continues and protect themselves against future pains? Is it because pleasure still feels good (and is still *the good*) even when we have no *need* of more?

I understand that absence of pain = fullness of pleasure, since the feelings are only two. I understand that "absence of pain" does not exist as some platonic ideal, but is a term pointing to real-world experiences. However, my cogs are still a little stuck on the logic of *why* we should or want to pursue further pleasures once our hunger and thirst are satiated. I feel I understand the concept but am having trouble holding it succinctly in my mind.