

# Horace - Buying Pleasure With Pain is Harmful (????)

Post by "Cassius" of August 22, 2025 at 10:41 AM

Thanks Don! Lots of clearly correct material in there. But this crucial line in narrower context still seems objectionable to me, so I'll try to dig further into whether the Latin justifies it. If the Latin does, I would still fault Horace for this formulation, which is perhaps worse even than the first suggested translation:

Unless the vessel be sweet, whatever you pour into it turns sour. ***Despise pleasures, pleasure bought with pain is hurtful.*** The covetous man is ever in want; set a certain limit to your wishes.