

# Discussion of Article: "On Pleasure, Pain and Happiness"

Post by "Elayne" of July 14, 2019 at 9:36 AM

Ok, here is an alternate sort of wording: "In the absence of pleasure, only pain can occur, not any hypothetical neutral state. In the absence of pain, only pleasure can occur, not any other state. This is the same as knowing that where there isn't void, only atoms will be present, and where there are no atoms, only void." And I will work on adding the other details I've proposed, such as there being no third sort of "mystical pleasure" feeling that's different from regular pleasure feelings.

I really do think this is a key point and that we should not concede any ground to confused people who think any feeling other than pleasure will happen when pain is effectively minimized.

I also continue to strenuously disagree with the idea of representing feelings in abstract numerical form, especially given Epicurus' known antipathy towards the way math was used in his time. I'm an old calculus team gal, who is very comfortable with math, but it does not belong as a representation of feelings-- I advise we must always stay with the feeling itself when deciding which result we want. Seeing that graphic with the numbers makes me cringe, lol.

However, I can include a line that there is not a consensus on this point.