

PD 25 meaning? by Woolf (2004)

Post by “wbernys” of May 10, 2026 at 9:23 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Yeah the very fact that you are fleeing/escaping or pursuing/chasing indicates to me that what you're doing is exercising free will, and I don't see how that is compatible with implying that everything everyone does is "necessarily" because they see it as leading to greater pleasure for them.

Epicurus does explicitly say that "some things happen by necessity", and i think a necessary aversion to pain or pursuit of pleasure might just be a necessary thing for Epicurus. This was part of his "cradle argument" is that we, by nature, delight in pleasure and hate pain, it is therefore something of necessity, like not controlling who our parents are.

I think this is overall compatible with Epicurus defense of free will. We can have free will to believe absurd things, like the mythic gods or death being an evil, we have freedom to make extreme miscalculations, but not maybe not in deciding that we like pleasure and dislike pain, and that this always play a role in our decisions.