

PD 25 meaning? by Woolf (2004)

Post by “wbernys” of May 11, 2026 at 11:19 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

And I don't think it's true, or helpful to imply even if it sounds good to some people, that either (1) or (2) are what Epicurus taught.

I do agree that 1 is indefensible and needlessly astatic. I don't mind 2 as much but I sympathize with your points. I definitely think Epicurus thought removal of pain was centrally important, because we can't experience the height of pleasure while in pain, and oftentimes pain doesn't allow pleasure as the two are opposites, so I don't mind commentators emphasizing that with caveats.

I mainly think the main point to be made is that Joy or Delight from sex, fine dining, or theme parks are not "baser" or inferior pleasures to tranquility or absence of pain. My reading of Epicurus is that he thinks they're all equal, as all pleasure is a unity and naturally good. Joy and Delight being an equal value variation of tranquility, not a "baser" pleasure/version, like John Stuart Mill may think. I think Epicurus explicitly rejected that as the talk of Plato's academy taling about geometry and musical theory being higher pleasures.

Agree?