

PD 25 meaning? by Woolf (2004)

Post by “wbernys” of May 11, 2026 at 9:47 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

But back to the more basic and at the same time more urgent point to be clear about: Happiness, which is what Epicurus says we do everything to obtain, does not require complete absence of pain.

Are we agreed on that?

Seems right to me. I think Epicurus might think (personal conjecture) happiness may require absence of pain or joy in the mind, since the feelings of the mind are so intense, but i certainly think one can be "happy" even with pain in the flesh, as with the mind being cleared up, he has more pleasures than pain.

As Torquatus says the wise man is always happy because "Thus equipped he enjoys perpetual pleasure, for there is no moment when the pleasures he experiences do not outbalance the pains"

But we certainly would be happier and have more pleasures with pains in the flesh being removed or replaced by a pleasure. So removal of pain does remain a goal even if we can be "happy" without it, since we want to be even happier and have more pleasures to achieve complete happiness where nothing torments us and we can enjoy pleasures undiluted.