


Discussion of Blog Article - "Why It Is Incorrect to Say Epicurean Philosophy Is Primarily About 'Absence of Pain'"

Post by "Cassius" of May 20, 2026 at 10:56 AM

This thread is for discussion of: **"Why It Is Incorrect to Say Epicurean Philosophy Is Primarily About 'Absence of Pain'"**

A man with a dark beard and hair, wearing a white tunic, is shown in profile, looking towards a large, ornate scroll. The scroll is decorated with a gold sunburst at the top and a laurel wreath on the left side. The text on the scroll is written in a black, gothic-style font. The background is a warm, golden light, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees.

“For this reason we call pleasure the beginning and end of the blessed life. For we recognize pleasure as the first good innate in us, and from pleasure we begin every act of choice and avoidance, and to pleasure we return again, using the feeling as the standard by which we judge every good.”

— Epicurus, Letter to Menoeceus

Blog Article

[Why It Is Incorrect to Say Epicurean Philosophy Is Primarily About 'Absence of Pain'](#)

The Claim and Why It Matters

The claim that Epicurean philosophy is “primarily about the absence of pain” — that the Epicurean goal is a passive, featureless neutral state free from disturbance — is one of the most consequential misreadings in the history of philosophy. It transforms a vigorous, life-affirming system into something that looks, in practice, indistinguishable from the Stoic, Buddhist, or ascetic counsels that Epicurus directly opposed.

The arguments against this reading are...



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