

Defense of all mental pleasure and pain being based in the body.

Post by "Cassius" of May 22, 2026 at 8:11 AM

Yes i agree with Don excellent and thorough point wbernys!

The only initial comment i had was on this:

[Quote from wbernys](#)

One of the controversial points is about Epicurus saying paternal love is not "natural" but is chosen because of a hope to be taken care of when we're older. But more importantly i imagine Epicurus would point to hopes of seeing delightful sights of seeing children prospering, and being around for you in your old age, i imagine friendship runs on the same line. But it is still based in hopes of bodily goods, of hopes for future pleasures.

This may not apply exactly, but It's my understanding that Epicurus was criticized by Stoics and maybe others on the grounds that he did not say that such things as paternal or brotherly or familial love were were "natural" in the sense of being part of a "divine" or "ideal" order. In this context the term "natural" is kind of broad and might not clearly make the central point. Epicurus says that "nature" DOES lead us in those directions, but through trial and error and seeing that the result brings the greatest pleasure, not because these things are "written into our nature" by gods of idealism.

In the overall context of your post that's a small point but I've seen this criticism of Epicurus stated a few times (can't remember where though!). I think we have a ready answer to those criticisms, and therefore we can always disagree that they are accurate by explaining the distinction between what Epicurus thinks is truly natural (in a totally non-supernatural nature) and what the Stoics/Platonists are asserting is natural (in their divinely ordered nature)