

What Would Epicurus Say To Someone Who Said To Him That The Value of Being Dead and Being Alive Are Equal?

Post by “Cassius” of June 25, 2026 at 3:36 PM

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

I certainly can't see this as consistent with Epicurus.

I don't see it to be consistent with Epicurus either, but it IS a good illustration (apparently) of how someone can use persuasive logic and reach disastrously wrong conclusions.

And I think that's why Epicurus held that it is not necessary (or perhaps even appropriate?) to construct elaborate logical arguments about why pleasure is the goal of life. It sounds like certain later Epicureans decided to try to do just that, and I wish we had more texts so we could judge how successful they might have been. But probably Epicurus was right that pure logic is not the best approach to this question, and that's one reason he warned against the improper use of logic.

Thanks for the cite there Pacatus.