

Rebuttal to a Stoic who stated that "flourishing" would be a "better" goal of life than Pleasure

Post by "Cassius" of July 1, 2026 at 5:42 PM

[Quote from Matteng](#)

Today podcast episodes revolve around these questions too; I'm going to listen to them again, starting to rehear from episode 280 😊

Good luck because that's at least 40 hours of listening!

[Quote from Matteng](#)

Donald Robertson once wrote me, that avoiding all Pain leads to experiential avoidance what causes mental health problems and is boring.

That's a case in which i would agree with Donald Robertson and would simply repeat that while an Epicurean god might theoretically be able to do that, Epicurus was dealing with humans so he said that we regularly choose pain when a pleasure that is greater results.

A lot of the problem is that the stoics, like Cicero, refuse to allow anything as pleasure other than physical stimulation. If they were right, then their argument would be sound, but they refuse to accept Epicurus' division of pleasure and pain in ethics and canonics, just as they refuse to accept his division of atoms and void in physics.