

# Welcome Max Duboff

**Post by “Max DuBoff” of July 1, 2026 at 6:33 PM**

Very interesting points, more later. In the meantime, Don, yes, I meant ataraxia by tranquility, makarios for blessed, and eudaimonia for happiness (though I agree well-being is a solid term).

And yep, I like Austin's book a lot! (Plus I've benefited significantly from discussions with her.) The only issue for someone looking to understand ancient Epicureanism is the lack of science; but that's not a deficiency of the book, because her primary goal isn't to provide an introduction to the ancient school.

I'm having a bit of trouble figuring out whether we disagree on the point about a blessed life. I certainly agree that, once pain is absent there is only pleasure, so in that sense the absence of pain is the best life. But the relevant point is that the absence of pain is the important part, rather than any kind of quantity of pleasure or something like that. I'll think about this more later and reread your comments, to see if there's something I'm missing.

Godfrey, a major theme of PD 18-21 (as I understand them) is that a finite life can be perfectly good (pantelēs), i.e., unable to be improved in the respect in which it is good. PD 20 begins with an argument about why an additive conception of pleasure can't meet that standard.