

Welcome Max Duboff

Post by “Cassius” of July 8, 2026 at 7:28 AM

I agree with Don's post, and in addition specifically on the issue of whether Epicurus was understood in the ancient world to be a "value dualist," I would cite what I see as a very clear refutation of any idea that "absence of pain" is something different and better than pleasure:

Quote from On Ends Book Two, 9 :

Cicero: "...[B]ut unless you are extraordinarily obstinate you are bound to admit that 'freedom from pain' does not mean the same thing as 'pleasure.'"

Torquatus: "Well but on this point you will find me obstinate, for it is as true as any proposition can be."