

Discussion of the thread - Against Katastematic Supremacy - Pleasure Is A Unified Whole And Not A House Divided - Forum Editorial Policy

Post by “DaveT” of August 4, 2026 at 12:06 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

If what you mean is that your first priority is to seek out and eliminate any bodily or mental pain from your life before you turn to any pleasure, and that in the process of eliminating those pains it makes no difference what pleasures you choose to employ, then that's quite a stark statement.

No, what I mean is that once you eliminate pain(s) you have pleasure automatically and immediately. You don't need to do anything to turn to pleasure. Now, take that short explanation and see how I don't care about any discussion of kinetic and katastematic pleasures. Epicurus is telling me quite clearly that absent pain, I have pleasure.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

arguably someone who used your formula would never pursue roses or music until they reach a state of perfect painlessness.

And here, I given my explanation above, I reject that argument. Never say never and by the way who care? I am in a state of pleasure which I can increase any way I choose within the hedonic calculus.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

The question is whether it is correct to erect the elimination of any pain of body or mind as the "prime directive"

Again, given my clarification in the first paragraph, it is simply common sense that tells everyone that no one can eliminate every pain. Within that common sense, Epicurus saw and thought out and wrote the words of PD 3. P.S. the use of the word erect has humorous implications!!!

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I suspect you will say that that is not what your formulation is doing, but my personal opinion is that it comes very close to saying that, and I would not agree that that would be the correct conclusion. Sometimes we choose pain in order to avoid a worse pain or achieve a greater pleasure.

So, again, now that you see your initial suspicion is off, and that I clarified my meaning for you in the first paragraph, I hope your opinion is worth reconsideration. Certainly choosing pain as you ended this paragraph is completely consistent with my thesis of the common sense application and of Epicurus' plain meaning of the words of PD 3.

Honestly, I hope my explanations of your assumptions might modify your conclusions that what I have expressed is not in either of those two camps which I quote below.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Dave's post has me focused on trying to identify what I see to be two different camps with two different sets of foundational premises:

So might it in fact be something that can be summarized by viewing the issue as being between the competing goals of:

Maximizing Net Pleasure vs Minimizing Total Pain

It is not maximizing as I see it. It is removing or minimizing pain with the result of pleasure using the explicit words of PD 3.