

# Is Pleasure the Only Good?

Post by “Joshua” of September 15, 2019 at 4:30 PM

Thank you, Godfrey! This is what I'm trying to nail down here. It was Cassius' post in another thread that got me thinking about the question;

## Quote

The reason O'Keefe finds the relationship between nature and goodness "far from straightforward" is because O'Keefe refuses to follow Epicurus to his conclusions. Nature gives us only pleasure as the guide to what is desirable, and there is nothing "good" other than pleasure.

Possibly I'm wrong in my interpretation, but I don't think that eating and drinking are intrinsic goods. In so far as there is a *desire* to drink water, it is natural (not intrinsically good; just natural). The satisfaction of the desire is necessary, at least in the long run. But the only intrinsic good worth pursuing as an end in itself is pleasure.

Maybe the whole concept of "good" just muddies the water. DeWitt believed that there was a fault with the Romans who translated *telos* as *summum bonum*. In his view, the "good" is life itself, and the "end" of life is pleasure.

I'm really just thinking through this out loud 😊