

# Philebus - Plato's Arguments Against Pleasure and Epicurean Responses

Post by "Godfrey" of October 2, 2019 at 3:19 PM

Cassius I like the idea of an outline with drop down sections. The format of Socrates quotes followed by [Philebus](#)/Protarchus wrong responses then Epicurus' correct responses is excellent. An alternative to drop down sections would be to summarize each argument and then refer to quotations at the end or in a related document.

Regarding [Philebus](#) as a whole, this is all new to me as I don't have a background in philosophy. [Philebus](#) seems to be pretty concise (at least as much as a dialectic argument can be) and touches on many ideas and methods of Plato in addition to being an argument against pleasure as the greatest good.

For example, dialectic is something Epicurus opposed. My intuitive reaction to it has always been that, while it may have some value, it's also possible to prove, using dialectic and/or logic, that a banana is a didgeridoo or an elephant is a building. Your outline is well structured to combat this by showing the fallacious statements which lead to fallacious conclusions.

Another thing that struck me in reading [Philebus](#) was the idea of the gods. Plato has the monotheistic conception of a universal mind. Understanding this made me realize that, whatever one makes of the [Epicurean gods](#), they didn't create the universe and are not reduced to one all powerful god but are a refutation of the Platonic world view.

Much of my interest in [Philebus](#) is to use it as a Cliff Notes version of Plato from which a list of Platonic ideas and Epicurean responses could be created. The focus is pleasure but there seems to be much more in there to chew on.

When I have some time I'll try to take this further, for what it's worth....