

Discussion of the Society of Epicurus' 20 Tenets of 12/21/19

Post by "Cassius" of January 9, 2020 at 12:48 PM

[Quote from Mike Anyayahan](#)

I know that Epicurus puts friendship as chief pleasure,

I know I sound like a nitpicker today and I apologize, but since we're discussing for the purpose of sharpening our understanding I ought to comment on this too. Probably better put that would be "I know that Epicurus puts friendship as *a chief tool for achieving pleasure.*"

*PD27. Of all the things which wisdom acquires **to produce the blessedness of the complete life**, far the greatest is the possession of friendship.*

I only point that out because it is a subject of regular discussion as to whether it is possible to rank some pleasures as more important than others. I think that Epicurus would say that it is not possible to do so as a general rule, so I doubt it is proper to speak of a "chief pleasure" -- at least not in general, apart from a particular context.

I also say that because I frequently see comments that imply exactly that -- that friendship is somehow a special pleasure higher than any other, and I think it's important to allow "friendship" to assume a absolute conceptual superiority that is not justified by the rest of the philosophy. If anything other than pleasure itself is allowed to creep toward the status of "chief good" or "highest good" other than the feeling of pleasure itself, I think that's an invitation to confusion and an open door to the virtue-ethicists.