

Glossary - What is the Epicurean Definition of "Pleasure?"

Post by "Hiram" of January 15, 2020 at 2:48 PM

[Quote from Oscar](#)

[Cassius](#) you made an interesting point before that the modern usage and term for describing *happiness* wasn't in Epicurus' vocabulary. Eudaimonia, however, was around the time of Epicurus. Can you clarify the difference between happiness and pleasure.

It seems a lot of people are seeking happiness, how would you convince them that happiness is not the goal of life, that pleasure is the ultimate goal/chief good in life?

These discussions have one on for thousands of years among the Schools that follow pleasure ethics. In [the review of Lampe's book on the Cyrenaics](#), while discussing Aristippus, I delved into his matter (under the heading "Ethics"):

Quote

Lampe thinks that Cyrenaics are eudaimonics (believed in happiness as the end, not just pleasure), but most scholars disagree. It's likely that a variety of views existed within the school regarding the end. One of the key arguments for pleasure as the end in its inception had to do with how pleasure is not the same thing as happiness. Pleasure is an instance, happiness is a collection of pleasures, and as such happiness is therefore an abstraction, a platonized alternative to the real experience of pleasure. This argument is interesting, and still generates debate and various opinions today.