

Tranquility v Pleasure

Post by "Cassius" of February 25, 2020 at 1:48 PM

[Quote from Mike Anyayahan](#)

I remember there was a thread where I quoted Torquatus that pleasure is the removal of pain, and there is no state between pleasure and pain.

I agree with what Elayne said, and would say this too:

In order to avoid confusion I think it is necessary to back up to decide what it is we are talking about - which is "feeling" - which is an experience (on pleasure and pain as experiences I would refer to the Wentham article.

We can discuss the question of how long a feeling continues to exist, but as for me, I do not think that the word "state" is particularly useful, because there is no bright line between a feeling of pleasure that lasts for a second or a minute or an hour or whatever period of time.

As to there being only two feelings, pleasure and pain, the most direct statement on that which I have found is in Diogenes Laertius:

"

The internal sensations they say are two, pleasure and pain, which occur to every living creature, and the one is akin to nature and the other alien: by means of these two choice and avoidance are determined. Of investigations some concern actual things, others mere words. This is a brief summary of the division of their philosophy and their views on the criterion of truth."

And so I don't think it is good terminology necessarily to say that there is something "between" pleasure and pain as much as it would to say something like "all feelings are either pleasurable or painful" which makes the point that there are no other types of feeling that don't fit under one of the two labels.

Remember the basic point that "[Death is nothing to us](#), for that which is dissolved is without sensation; and *that which lacks sensation is nothing to us*" so anything that is not felt/experienced as pleasure or pain is "nothing to us" - which would cover anything that anyone wants to allege is neither painful or pleasurable to us.