

Gosling & Taylor, The Greeks on Pleasure.

Post by "Godfrey" of June 26, 2020 at 3:51 PM

Quote

I don't want to go down a tranquilist rabbit hole, but there's an element of tranquility in there.

I agree that there is definitely an element of tranquility in the writings. Tranquility is also part of a well functioning life, as being relatively calm allows for better decision making in addition to allowing for a more complete experience of pleasure. Isn't the big question whether ataraxia is a goal or a byproduct and/or tool?

That's why I like this from 18.3.15 in G&T: "*Once one is convinced of the truth of Epicurus' doctrines and has incorporated his teachings into one's life, one ceases to worry and lives a life as near to ataraxia and aponia as is possible for one.*" This seems like a pretty common sense interpretation to me.

Doesn't the most confusion arise over the part of the letter to Menoikos that cited by [Don](#) , and the paragraph containing it? I'm wondering if focusing on that and the following paragraph might be useful (by "paragraphs," I'm referring to the Saint-Andre translation). The "goal" in the quotation, to me, refers to the fact that all animals seek pleasure and reject pain. Then in the next paragraph pleasure is referred to as the primary and innate good. So is "the good" something different from a biological imperative?