

# Eudoxus - Precursor to Epicurus and More Like Him Than Aristippus?

Post by “Cassius” of May 12, 2023 at 7:51 PM

Another topic briefly mentioned in [Episode 173](#), and someone else we need to spend more time exploring - EUDOXUS:

[Eudoxus of Cnidus - Wikipedia](#)

[Aristotle](#), in the [Nicomachean Ethics](#),<sup>[11]</sup> attributes to Eudoxus an argument in favor of [hedonism](#)—that is, that pleasure is the ultimate good that activity strives for. According to Aristotle, Eudoxus put forward the following arguments for this position:

1. All things, rational and irrational, aim at pleasure; things aim at what they believe to be good; a good indication of what the chief good is would be the thing that most things aim at.
2. Similarly, pleasure's opposite—pain—is universally avoided, which provides additional support for the idea that pleasure is universally considered good.
3. People don't seek pleasure as a means to something else, but as an end in its own right.
4. Any other good that you can think of would be better if pleasure were added to it, and it is only by good that good can be increased.
5. Of all of the things that are good, happiness is peculiar for not being praised, which may show that it is the crowning good.<sup>[12]</sup>

---

Post by “Cassius” of May 12, 2023 at 7:53 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Any other good that you can think of would be better if pleasure were added to it, and it is only by good that good can be increased.

Of all of the things that are good, happiness is peculiar for not being praised, which may show that it is the crowning good.

Both of these seem very creative! The first makes perfect sense, and the second is --- snarkily convincing??

---

### **Post by “Cassius” of May 12, 2023 at 7:56 PM**

In fact it would be fun to compare and contrast: Who was closer to Epicurus, Aristippus or Eudoxus? What do we know about their respective physics and epistemology that we might use to say that Epicurus thought of himself as being closer to one than to the other?

---

### **Post by “Don” of May 12, 2023 at 8:29 PM**

<https://sites.unimi.it/zucchi/NuoviFile/Warren09.pdf>

ARISTOTLE ON SPEUSIPPUS ON EUDOXUS ON PLEASURE

JAMES WARREN

---

### **Post by “Don” of May 12, 2023 at 9:32 PM**

[Diogenes Laertius, Lives of Eminent Philosophers, BOOK VIII, Chapter 8. EUDOXUS \(c. 407-357 B.C.\)](#)

Eudoxus in Diogenes Laertius