

Tracing Down A Passage On Diathesis / Attitude

Post by "Cassius" of August 4, 2018 at 9:14 AM

On page 186 of his text, DeWitt cites this interesting quote from Diogenes of Oinoanda: "The secret of happiness is in the diathesis, of which we are sole arbiters." The quote is cited as fragment 57 from the inscription, but apparently a different numbering system is being used by Martin Ferguson Smith [here](#), nor do I find the numbering to be the same in Chilton's "Diogenes of Oenoanda - The Fragments." Both of these works post-date DeWitt, so he must have been working from another source. Does anyone know a good cite for this or know the equivalent in [Smith's translation](#)?

The writing of Epicurus on the topic has perished, but to discern his approach is not difficult. The objective of life is happiness and to attain this the individual must at all times retain control of experience. This control means liberty of choice and the choice is double, first the choice of attitude and then the choice in the particular instance. The former is the more important. As the faithful Diogenes of Oenoanda expressed it, "The secret of happiness is in the diathesis, of which we are sole arbiters."⁴³

⁴³ Frag. 57.1-3.