

The attitude to have when working at your Job

Post by “Pacatus” of May 10, 2022 at 2:51 PM

From a poem I wrote a couple of years back, entitled “Democritus Ridens.” (The quotes I posted above were the epigraph for the poem.)

He taught the world is round, fashioned of atoms whirling
in space -- that cheerfulness is a flourishing fountain
of health, a natural spring to cure our fevered fears.

Plato hated him: too much mirth, too little divine.

Epicurus, with liberating swerve, welcomed him
-- and all us commoners -- into his pleasant garden.

Now this amiable sage lampoons my gravity,
pretentious habits of self-baiting guilt and despair,
glancing askance in amusement from his portrait perch --
with an anachronistic plume-feather in his cap.

My plea, on this day weighing down like an iron sigh:

“O *Philosophus Ridens*, enlighten me to laugh!”

~ ~ ~

Coda:

Let us offer to those who suffer daily travail
at least the respite of cheerfulness: a festive inn,
however rustic, along the wearying long road—

“Plume feather”: reference to a reproduction I have of a painting by Jacob Duck (c. 1600-1667), titled “Laughing Democritus Seated Next To A Terrestrial Globe”

