

Atlantic Article: There are two kinds of happy people

Post by "Cassius" of June 25, 2022 at 5:49 AM

I see that the video (or audio I should say) is here:
https://www.reddit.com/r/lectures/com...values_you_are/

I don't have time now to review the whole video but the question got me thinking about relevant potential analogies to slavery in Epicurean texts. While there are others, the one that jumped out at me was from Menoecus:

Quote

[134] For, indeed, it were better to follow the myths about the gods than to become a slave to the destiny of the natural philosophers: for the former suggests a hope of placating the gods by worship, whereas the latter involves a necessity which knows no placation. As to chance, he does not regard it as a god as most men do (for in a god's acts there is no disorder), nor as an uncertain cause (of all things) for he does not believe that good and evil are given by chance to man for the framing of a blessed life, but that opportunities for great good and great evil are afforded by it.

Seems to me that Epicurus reacted negatively to the ultimate slavery of hard determinism (or maybe better word "necessity") with about as much energy - or more - than we today react to issues of personal slavery.

VS09. *Necessity is an evil, but [there is no necessity to live under the control of necessity.](#)*