

Do Pigs Value Katastematic Pleasure? (Summer 2022 K / K Discussion)

Post by "Don" of July 2, 2022 at 5:47 PM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

This is a great example of the much documented issue of lack of documentation

Well put! Exactly.

Remember, too, that when you say...

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

Can any significance be derived from the fact that he wrote that peace of mind and freedom from pain imply a state of rest, whereas joy and delight are seen to consist in motion and activity?

That's not exactly what Epicurus said. That's an extrapolation and Interpretation of:

"ἡ μὲν γὰρ ἀταραξία καὶ ἀπονία καταστηματικά ἐῖσιν ἡδοναί: ἡ δὲ χαρὰ καὶ ἡ εὐφροσύνη κατὰ κίνησιν ἐνεργεῖα βλέπονται."

That whole "which imply a state of rest" is contained in καταστηματικά. The only thing that we can be sure is that that first sentence reads:

"For ataraxia and aponia are 'katastēmatikai' pleasures..."

What did Epicurus mean by katastēmatikai pleasures?? That's the rub. LSJ says

καταστηματικός , ἡ, ὄν,

A.pertaining to a state or condition

as well as, in relation to musical instruments, "calming"

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, Κκ , κατάσσης^τος , καταστηματικός](#)

That's a LOT of commentary and Interpretation that gets thrown about from "scholars" and "experts " and a LOT of it gets filtered through a Platonic lens before it ever settles on Epicurus.

If this is a direct quote from Epicurus from his *On Choices (and Rejections)*, then there's no doubt Epicurus had words to say about different kinds of pleasure. He says it right there:

ἀταραξία καὶ ἀπονία are this type of pleasures (ἡδοναί hēdonai); χαρὰ and ἡ εὐφροσύνη are ...
βλέπονται "seen" possibly "experienced? exist?"

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, βλέπω](#)

κατὰ κίνησιν ἐνεργεία (kata kinēsin "through/by way of motion" energeiai "activity, etc.")

[http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...ntry=e\)ne/rgeia](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...ntry=e)ne/rgeia) Note that LSJ has it defined as "the opposite of ἔξις" which is "a state or habit of mind" which seems exactly to me what the katastematic Pleasures point to: a state of being. So that dichotomy is reinforced using ἐνεργεία...

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