

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

Post by “Don” of July 9, 2022 at 10:39 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

The closest think that comes to me regarding "homeostasis" is Vatican Saying 11 - "For most people, to be quiet is to be numb and to be active is to be frenzied." And so this is pointing at something which is neither.

Here's some of my own commentary on [VS11](#).

[VS11](#) For most people, to be quiet is to be numb and to be active is to be frenzied.

τῶν πλείστων ἀνθρώπων τὸ μὲν ἡσυχάζον ναρκᾶ, τὸ δὲ κινούμενον λυττᾶ.

- τῶν πλείστων ἀνθρώπων (gen) the greatest number of people (i.e., the majority of people)
- ἡσυχάζω (hesykhazo) I. to be still, keep quiet, be at rest, Aesch.; ἡ ἀπορία τοῦ μὴ ἡσυχάζειν the difficulty of finding rest, Thuc.:—often in part., ἡσυχάζων προσμένω Soph.; ἡσυχάσασα by resting from war, Thuc.
- νάρκη I. numbness, deadness, Lat. torpor, Ar.
- κινέω (κινούμενον middle/passive participle?)
 - to set in motion, move, remove
 - (grammar) to inflect
 - to meddle
 - to change, innovate
 - to begin, cause
 - to urge on, stir on
 - to arouse, exasperate, anger, taunt, abuse
 - (passive) to be moved, to stir, to move
- λύσσα I. rage, fury, esp. martial rage, Il. 2. after Hom. raging madness, raving, frenzy, Trag. II. canine madness, rabies, Xen. λύσσα, αττιξ λύττα, ἡ

So an alternative translation by Don: For the majority of people, to be at rest is to be bored stiff; but to be active is to be raving like a rabid dog.

To me it seems to be saying there needs to be a balance or that stillness is important and that most people don't recognize this. Plus they're just running around to appear important or just simply to do something, they can't be alone with their own thoughts... they're not self-reliant.

Additional note: In light of the current discussion over multiple threads on katastematic and kinetic pleasures, I find the words ἡσυχάζον (hēsychazōn) and κινούμενον (kinoumenon) VERY indicative of the senses of katastematic and kinetic (in fact, kinoumenon is directly related to that word in Greek). I find their juxtaposition here very interesting.

I also see his "for most people" directly implying "but not for us (Epicureans)". He is setting up a contrast with the masses against the Epicureans, and, from my reading here, the Epicureans *value* ἡσυχάζον and κινούμενον and the Epicureans do NOT see them as numbness and "raving like a rabid dog," respectively.

In fact, hesykhias shows up in a [PD14](#).

[PD14](#) . "Although security on a human level is achieved up to a point by a power to resist and by prosperity, the security afforded by inner peace and withdrawing from the crowd is the purest." White (2021)

Τῆς ἀσφαλείας τῆς ἐξ ἀνθρώπων γενομένης μέχρι τινὸς δυνάμει τινὶ ἐξαιρετικῇ καὶ εὐπορίᾳ εἰλικρινεστάτη γίνεται ἢ ἐκ τῆς ἡσυχίας καὶ ἐκχωρήσεως τῶν πολλῶν ἀσφάλεια.

+ ἡσυχίας (hesykhias) "peace; silence, stillness"

+ + ἐκχωρεύω (ekkhoreuo) "to break out (ἐκ-) of the chorus (χορεύω)"

I find reading the ἡσυχάζον in [VS11](#) in light of the ἡσυχίας in [PD14](#) , and vice versa, to be intriguing.