

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

Post by "Cassius" of July 14, 2022 at 10:09 AM

OK those are helpful. Here's one of the BIG quotes that is thrown out often, and we need to be able to put it in context of the global philosophy and especially [VS63](#): "Frugality too has a limit, and the man who disregards it is like him who errs through excess."

An obvious approach might be to note that money or wealth is specifically referred to, rather than all the "joy and delight" pleasures in general so perhaps there was a context in which this Pythocles was too interested in money in particular. I can't imagine Epicurus saying, for example, "*If you wish to make Pythocles Happy, do not give him more happiness, but diminish his joy and delight.*"

Does Philodemus in his "On Property Management" mention anything like this?

It would be interesting if the sources that preserve this are not the core ancient Epicureans but Seneca the Stoic and Stobaues (Of whom Wikipedia says: "Of his life nothing is known.^[2] He derived his surname apparently from being a native of [Stobi](#) in [Macedonia Salutaris](#).^[3] The age in which he lived cannot be fixed with accuracy.^[3] He quotes no writer later than the early 5th century, and he probably lived around this time.^[3] From his silence in regard to [Christian](#) authors, it has been inferred that he was not a Christian.^[2] However, his name would probably indicate that he was a Christian, or at least the son of Christian parents.^[3]")

This is NOT in Diogenes Laertius or Diogenes of Oinoanda(???)

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Johannes Stobaeus, *Anthology*, 3.17.24: Again from Epicurus: "If you wish to make Pythocles rich, do not give him more money, but diminish his desire."

Cf. *Ibid.*, 23 [Arsenius, *Paroemiogr. Gotting. t. II p. 382, 11*]: The precept of Epicurus...
& *Ibid.* XVII.37: Epicurus, when asked how one can enrich oneself, responded: "Not by accumulating extraneous goods, but rather by trimming one's needs."

Seneca, *Letters to Lucilius*, 21.7: In order that Idomeneus may not be introduced free of charge into my letter, he shall make up the indebtedness from his own account. It was to him that Epicurus addressed his well-known saying, urging him to make Pythocles rich, but not rich in the vulgar and equivocal way. "If you wish to make Pythocles rich," said he, "do not add to his store of money, but subtract from his desires."