

The Ethics of Epicurus and its Relation to Contemporary Doctrines by Jean-Marie Guyau. Edited by Testa and Ansell-Pearson, translated by Testa

Post by "Pacatus" of May 7, 2023 at 1:18 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

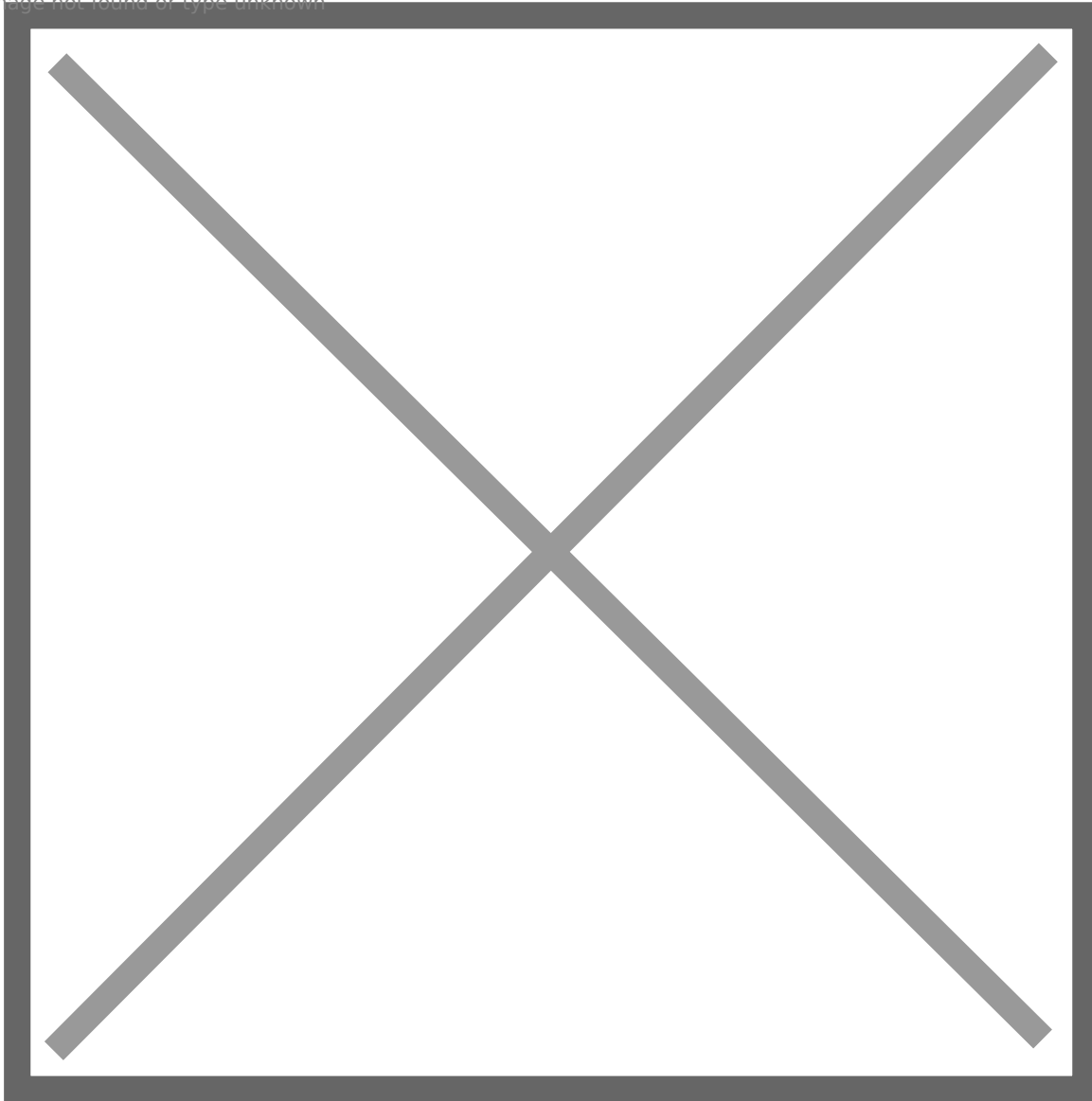
Again - presuming "serenity" means what most people interpret it to m\be, as largely denoting mental and physical inactivity. No one generally says "I want to live a serene life" and expects the listener to understand a normal healthy active life.

Just a brief interjection as I work more through this discussion (and am reading the Kindle free sample of the book):

Personally, I have never thought that's what serenity means - and I'm not convinced that most people do. I think it would be an extremely narrow (mis)interpretation.

Apparently, it was originally related to weather: clear, calm, bright. Figuratively, the Latin *serenitas* was also used to mean "cheerful, glad or joyous."

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[serene | Search Online Etymology Dictionary](#)

The online etymology dictionary (etymonline) is the internet's go-to source for quick and reliable accounts of the origin and history of English words,...

www.etymonline.com

[serenitas - Wiktionary](#)

[serenus - Wiktionary](#)

In any event, I suspect that Guyau (knowledgeable in philology I think) would have had the notions outlined in etymonline in mind. Nevertheless, if he left it at "The good then is serenity" - without qualification - even in French, I think we would all agree that that is a one-sidedness of the kind sometimes applied directly to the Greek *ataraxia* (and which has been discussed often on here).

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3043-the-ethics-of-epicurus-and-its-relation-to-contemporary-doctrines-by-jean-marie/?postID=23774#post23774>