

Episode 201 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 09

Post by "Cassius" of November 15, 2023 at 5:41 AM

I can't pass over this line from [Gellius](#) either:

Quote

In bringing this charge against Epicurus Plutarch is "word-chasing" with excessive minuteness and almost with frigidity; for far from *hunting up* such verbal meticulousness and such refinements of diction, Epicurus *hunts them down*.

I am not sure that the word play between "hunting up" and "hunting down" is totally obvious to us, but this seems to be a witticism that amounts to a strong endorsement of Epicurus.

Does anyone have a different interpretation other than it means something like: "*Epicurus is not only not guilty of playing games with words himself, he is hunting down and exposing those who do!*"

If that's the meaning then this Latin sentence might deserve a special place along with Lucian's "strike a blow for Epicurus" and Cicero's "master-builder of human happiness" and Laertius' "take for our end that which is the beginning of wisdom" in introducing the [Principal Doctrines](#), and similar praises.