

Episode 211 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 18 - Battle Of The Images

Post by “Cassius” of January 28, 2024 at 8:45 AM

Yes, we started talking about this last year and that was a good start. Now I think we are much further along in understanding the tremendously impactful philosophical value of these images that Cicero has preserved for us. We might work more dramatized versions of:

1. A two-panel representation of the best life vs the worst life, as described by Torquatus.
2. A two-panel possible contrast of the old and ugly bent over figure of Chrysippus (which we know from the actual statue) which we could contrast with a healthy and vibrant Epicurus holding out his hand in a gesture of friendship.
3. A two-panel contrast of Cleanthes' image off a debased pleasure served by the virtues, vs an Epicurean version of Pleasure as conveying the full strength and attractiveness of Pleasure as the reward of life.
4. A contrast between Cicero's intent that the host pouring the wine being in a much different state than the guest who is drinking it, contrasted against a view in which both the host and the guest are healthy and happy with their respective roles at that moment.

There are probably other allusions preserved in Cicero too. If a picture is worth a thousand words then good imagery contrasting Epicurean with standard Platonic/Stoic views of these scenes would be very valuable!