

Episode 215 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 22 - The Epicurean View Of Happiness

Post by “Joshua” of February 17, 2024 at 9:12 PM

Lucretius, Book III

“Why is your distress so great, you mortal,
that you indulge in sorrowful laments
to such excess? Why do you moan and weep
at death? For if the life you had before,
which is now over, was pleasing to you,
and all its good things have not leaked away, 1300
as if stored in containers full of holes,
and disappeared without delighting you,
why do you not take your leave like a guest
well satisfied with life, you foolish man,
and with your mind at ease accept a rest
which will not be disturbed? But if all things
which you enjoyed have been frittered away [940]
and come to nothing and life offends you,
why seek to add on more which, once again,
may all be squandered foolishly and leave 1310
without providing pleasure? Instead of that,
why do you not end your life and troubles?
For if I can discover or invent
nothing more to please you, then everything
always is the same. And if your body
is not yet shrivelled up with years, your limbs
not yet worn out and torpid, still all things
will stay the same, even if you keep going
and outlast all living races, or even more,
if you should never die.”