

Welcome HollyGraves!

Post by “Cassius” of June 19, 2024 at 10:17 AM

It is interesting how Cicero makes that remark. Sounds to me more like someone who does not appreciate philosophical jibes and jokes made at their expense, given that Cicero's team would be on the receiving end of Epicurus' attacks - humorous and otherwise.

Letter to Pythocles

[115] ... The signs of the weather which are given by certain animals result from mere coincidence of occasion. *For the animals do not exert any compulsion for winter to come to an end, nor is there some divine nature which sits and watches the outgoings of these animals and then fulfills the signs they give. [116] For not even the lowest animal ... would be seized by such foolishness, much less one who was possessed of perfect happiness.*

However I bet there probably IS a grain of truth to what Cicero said, and that we can still see in the face of Epicurus' statue with his piercing eyes. I suspect Epicurus was very capable of being very funny at some times, and extremely serious at others, as the situation required. And given the seriousness of the philosophical issues at stake, I suspect the situation required seriousness very often, even when the subject was Pleasure.

We probably should assemble a set of quotes of what is either obviously or implicitly Epicurean humor.