

# Stoics Aren't Ascetics... It's Those Epicureans!

Post by "Cassius" of November 29, 2024 at 8:11 AM

## [Quote from Don](#)

Where does he get "pale"? Did I miss a text? Maybe from Epictetus? I'll have to dig around unless someone knows and shares.

As to "pale" (unless someone knows a more explicit reference) I presume he's indulging in the common consensus that Epicureans are snowflake wallflowers. Many of Cicero's accusations against the Epicureans seem to follow a similar accusation.

And yet at the end of his life it was Cicero who was on the sidelines leaving it to the Epicurean Cassius (and other Epicureans Cassius cites in his letter to Cicero) to fight the war that Cicero was too retiring to fight himself.

## [Quote from \[15.16\] Cicero to Cassius \[Rome, January, 45 B.C.\]](#)

...so even if it is now two or three years since, bewitched by the blandishments of Pleasure, you sent a notice of divorce to Virtue, I am free to act as I like. And yet to whom am I talking? To you, the most gallant gentleman in the world, who, ever since you set foot in the forum, have done nothing but what bears every mark of the most impressive distinction. Why, in that very school you have selected I apprehend there is more vitality than I should have supposed, if only because it has your approval. "How did the whole subject occur to you?" you will say. Because I had nothing else to write. About politics I can write nothing, for I do not care to write what I feel.