

Article: "Philodemus on the Epicurean Virtue of Megalopsychia: Will the Sage Distain Other People?"

Post by "Bryan" of March 14, 2025 at 5:41 PM

Near the conclusion, we have "It would seem, then, that On Arrogance does not allow us to conclude that the Epicurean sage's greatness of soul excludes any element of disdain towards certain others." That puts it lightly! On the authority of the letter to Herodotus alone, it is clear that disdain towards certain others is at times appropriate.

[Bailey 10.80b] ...we must despise those persons who do not recognize either what exists or comes into being in one way only, or that which may occur in several ways in the case of things which can only be seen by us from a distance, and further are not aware under what conditions it is impossible to have peace of mind.

I'll also throw in:

[Sedley 20 B.1-2, Book 25, P.Herc. 1056 col. 16] ...< > ...but many naturally capable of achieving these and those results fail to achieve them because of themselves, not because of one and the same responsibility of the atoms and of themselves. And with these we especially do battle, and rebuke them, hating them for a disposition which follows their disordered congenital nature as we do with the whole range of animals.