

Epicurus And The Dylan Thomas Poem - "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night"

Post by "Adrastus" of July 7, 2025 at 6:07 AM

I take the poem as a bit too ambiguous and not sure what I should be reading into "light" and "night" and the images that these men are "seeing". Is it rage against dying, or is it rage against some kind of onset of oppression? My mind tends to go to some form of mysticism, or something akin to the Ode to Epicurus in Lucretius that is a bit more sensible and reasonable interpretation of someone who has thoroughly built up a total view of Life, the Universe and Everything in a Philosophic manner, and is therefore able to achieve some large degree of certainty or ataraxic state of mind. The former would be disturbing to me, while the latter far less so; but in the end, I agree with some of the other comments here in that I'm not sure what rage accomplishes for the self or for others outside of a literal skirmish.

As for raging on a death bed, that sounds deeply disturbing to anyone who would witness it or may be even the one who is raging. Epicurus' death seems far more settling, instructive and joyful; despite I imagine at the same time it being deeply sorrowful for his friends who were there with him.