

Old Tullius Accuses Epicurus of Shirking

Post by "Cassius" of September 7, 2019 at 10:48 AM

Another commentator says: "Pleasure is a joy of the mind. I love that definition."

Cassius replies:

We should remember all the usual cautions as to translations and shades of meaning, but "joy" is a word which clearly describes the presence of an intense form of pleasure. "Joy" is not a word that can be easily squared by those who allege that Epicurus was limiting his ambition to "absence of pain."

Yes there is a way to square the two terminologies, but not by the modern adoption of stoicized suppression of ordinary views of mental and physical pleasures. Cicero knew that that such an argument would never fly, because he knew well that those who understood Epicurus understood "pleasure" in the normal sense of the word, including taste, music, smooth motion, and the other **"pleasures by any of the senses in the whole man."**

That last phrase - **"pleasures by any of the senses in the whole man"** is the really explosive definition in this passage that anti-Epicureans don't like.