

Are There Examples of Greek or Roman Art Holding Up "Absence of Pain" As An Ideal To Be Desired? - Reference: Oblovomitis!

Post by "Cassius" of November 7, 2019 at 11:40 AM

It appears that Elaine Blair is a good candidate for Cambridge-style Epicureanism - Also from the wikipedia article:

However, Elaine Blair argues in "The Short Happy Life of Ilya Ilyich Oblomov" that Oblomov is "not merely lazy." She simply says, "our hero favors very short-term pleasures over long-term ones," "he is self-conscious in a way that no farcical character or Rabelaisian grotesque would be," and "to Oblomov, to be absorbed in any task is to lose something of oneself; a person can maintain his full dignity only in repose."^[8]

: <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2010/...ilyich-oblomov/>

The Short Happy Life of Ilya Ilyich Oblomov

Elaine Blair

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Oblomov

by Ivan Goncharov, translated from the Russian by Maria Schwartz
Seven Stories, 552 pp., \$33.95; Yale University Press, 576 pp., \$16.95 (paper)

Ivan Goncharov worked on *Oblomov* for about ten years, from the late 1840s until 1858, but a reader is left with the impression that the hero was born to him in a single vision, and that the five-hundred-plus pages of the book are an attempt at novelistic elaboration of what is essentially one idea: What if a man were so indolent that he could do nothing? Aristocrats in Russian literature before and after *Oblomov* suffer from ennui, waste time, despair of finding moral purpose. But nonetheless they helplessly go on doing things: drinking, gambling, marrying, fighting duels, joining the Freemasons. Not Oblomov. He spends the first third of the book shambling around his apartment in a robe. When he finally gets dressed, near the beginning of Part II, it is only because his best friend, Stolz, has absolutely insisted on it.

This seems very parallel to our discussion of the "Office Space" movie: [An Error-Filled Video from the Neo-Epicureans: Office Space](#)