

The Neglect of Metrodorus' Economics

Post by "Cassius" of February 16, 2020 at 11:52 AM

This is also out of context, but still probably reinforces the disposition that one would expect Epicurus to say different things about poverty depending on the context. We shouldn't expect Epicurus to say that poverty is always evil any more than he would say that it is always good:

"... he means that mendicancy... is the privation not of many, but of all things... This is why some Epicureans are said to use such calculations on behalf of (the notion) that poverty is evil. Epicurus in many other (books) says that poverty is an evil, but in different (writings) that have been collected this is not [his] opinion..." (πιτωχεία[v... δια]νοεῖ τῆ]ν στέρ]ησιν οὐ] πολλῶν, ἀλλὰ πάν]των... διὰ ταύ]τα [ταῖς] Ἐπικουρείων λέγοντα[ί] τινες ἰσ]θρ τ]οῦ κακὸν εἶ]να[ι τ]ὴν πεν]ίαν [εἰ]πιλο- γισμοῖ]ς χρῆσθαι τοιούτοις· ὁ Ἐπίκουρος ἔν τε ἄλλοις πο[λλ]οῖς φησι τὴν πενίαν κακὸν εἶναι, καὶ ἐν τα[ί]σδ' ἐπίροις συναχθεῖσαι[ις] μὴ φέρεσ[θ]αι)... ; XLV.15-40)