

Potty Language

Post by “Eikadistes” of March 27, 2025 at 10:57 AM

I've taken it upon myself to continue translating all of the Epistles, and about halfway through *Pythokles*, I came across a fantastic word that is *not only* entertaining *but also* educational, and memorable! When describing the expulsion of thunderbolts from a storm cloud, **Epicurus employs the word [κατάρρηξις](#) (katárrēxin), which means (you guessed it), "Explosive Diarrhea".**

This really exemplifies Epicurus' approach to science in de-mystifying extraordinary phenomena by relating it to mundane, daily activities, of which we show neither fear nor existential dread. Earlier in *Pythokles*, Epicurus also uses the imagery of bloating from eating grain, and then the indigestion and expulsion of vapors that followed to represent an analogy for *thunder*.

I also really appreciate the colorful example. I'll always maintain that funny, gross, and colorful examples are some of the best, most memorable, most demonstrative teachings tools. Philosophy shouldn't have to be abstract to the point of relying on purely theoretical language. Knowing that clouds get gas, just like people, seems to be enough to make the point. 😊