

Are You Epicurean Or Hieronymian?

Post by "Titus" of March 2, 2021 at 12:06 PM

Thanks a lot for your answer Cassius. Good points to go more deeper in detail.

Quote from Titus

Consequently, satisfying all natural and necessary desires is the highest level of being.

Quote from Cassius

This is a phrasing that I find very troublesome whenever I run into it, but it is definitely a conclusion a lot of people reach.

I think I was too short in my writing or too imprecise. I would rather understand centering on natural and necessary desires as the fundament of the pleasurable life, but not necessarily the house built on it. This fundament enables a man to stand very close to the standards set by nature.

Quote

But Epicurus admits both kinds both in the soul and in the body, as he says in the work on Choice and Avoidance and in the book on The Ends of Life and in the first book On Lives and in the letter to his friends in Mytilene.

Taking this quote for granted, I emphasize on the importance of examining someone's needs as an important point of how to achieve pleasure 'in the soul'. Personally, what I once called once 'flavour' before, I would identify with pleasure 'in the body'.

Perhaps we are just battling with words. My position is, that our choice and avoidance should be closely related to the natural and necessary desires as a tree is always related to the soil he grows on. All flavour is related to this soil. For example, drinking, eating, friendship, see the sun shining and feeling the sunbeams on your skin is active perception or something in motion or how you would call it. They are all part of an Epicurean conception of life. But it is very important, that we do not lose our connection with the soil and do not begin to relate to abstract ideas. Seeking for pleasures in abstract ideas as feeling powerful related to others or being abundant in money can destroy your pleasurable life.

Talking about my personal experience, applying Epicurean philosophy, especially the subsystem of choice and avoidance of needs, gives me great security which feels very pleasurable for myself. In addition with a bright, sunny day, interacting with friends, having a good meal, having great impressions... yeah, it's something different than 'painlessness'. We should actually avoid this term 😊