

HISTORICAL REFERENCES TO "PEACE AND SAFETY" - ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΚΑΙ ΑΣΦΑΛΕΙΑ

Post by "Joshua" of May 29, 2021 at 10:04 AM

I think I agree that DeWitt's reach exceeded his grasp on this point. It is far from settled, in my view, that "Peace and Safety" was a watchword among Epicureans. But it ought not be controversial that these were important, and they were often presented as a pair:

Peace and Safety

Quote

But nothing brings more joy than to live well
in serene high sanctuaries fortified
by wise men's learning—where you can look down
on other men, see them wandering around
in all directions, roaming here and there,
looking for a path in life, competing
in their natural gifts, striving for honours,
seeking with all their effort night and day
to rise to the top, to win great power.
O wretched minds of men, O blinded hearts!
In what living darkness, what great dangers,
you spend your lives, however long they last!
Do you not notice nature barking out
her one demand, that pain be kept away,
divorced from body, so that, free from care,
free from fear, she may derive enjoyment

in her mind from a sense of pleasure?

Hence, we see that for our body's nature

only a few things are truly needed—

the ones which do away with any pain.

-Lucretius

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Quote

It is not the young man who should be thought happy, but the old man who has lived a good life. For the young man at the height of his powers is unstable and is carried this way and that by fortune, like a headlong stream. But the old man has come to anchor in old age as though in port, and the good things for which before he hardly hoped he has brought into safe harbor in his grateful recollections.

-VS 17

Quote

There is no advantage to obtaining protection from other men so long as we are alarmed by events above or below the earth or in general by whatever happens in the boundless universe.

-VS 72

And yes, Lucian;

Quote

The fellow had no conception of the blessings conferred by that book upon its readers, of the peace, tranquillity, and independence of mind it produces, of the protection it gives against terrors, phantoms, and marvels, vain hopes and inordinate desires, of the judgement and candour that it fosters, or of its true purging of the spirit, not with torches and squills and such rubbish, but with right reason, truth, and frankness.

Quote

For the end of all our actions is to be free from pain and fear, and, when once we have attained all this, the tempest of the soul is laid;

-Letter to Menoecus

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2037-historical-references-to-peace-and-safety-%CE%B5%CE%B9%CF%81%CE%B7%CE%BD%CE%B7-%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B9-%CE%B1%CF%83%CF%86%CE%B1%CE%BB%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1/?postID=12413#post12413>

And in a similar vein:

Quote

Know then, that the only aim of the knowledge of the heavenly phenomena, both those which are spoken of in contact with one another, and of those which have a spontaneous existence, is that freedom from anxiety, and that calmness which is derived from a firm belief; and this is the aim of every other science.

-Letter to Pythocles