

# Best Recent Version of Diogenes Laertius?

Post by “Cassius” of August 29, 2021 at 8:51 PM

Here's another issue with Mensch, and since I am all in favor of Epicureans marrying and having lots of children so there will be more Epicureans, I consider this a serious problem with this version 😊 There's a lot of controversy about that line and apparently the text is unclear, but I resolve that dispute consistently with Epicurus providing in his will for Metrodorus' daughter eventually to be married to a member of the school. It doesn't look like in Mensch that she even annotates it, but just chooses what I perceive to be the negative option.

Injuries inflicted by human beings arise from hate, envy, or contempt, to which the wise man proves superior by reason. Furthermore, he who has once become wise never again assumes the opposite character, nor does he willingly feign it. He will be more susceptible to feelings, but this will not impair his wisdom. Yet not every physical constitution would permit a man to become wise, nor every nationality. Even when he is tortured the wise man is content. He alone will feel gratitude toward friends, present and absent alike. When tortured, however, he moans and wails. The wise man will not consort with women in any manner proscribed by law, as Diogenes says in his *Epitome of Epicurus' Ethical Doctrines*. Nor will he punish his servants; instead he will pity them and pardon any who are of good character. The Epicureans do not think that the wise man will fall in love; nor will he be concerned about his burial; nor do they think that love is sent by the gods, as Diogenes says in his *...*. Nor will the wise man make fine speeches. They maintain that sexual relations are never beneficial, and that one should be grateful not to be injured by them.

The wise man will not marry and beget children, as Epicurus says in *Problems* and his work *On Nature*. Occasionally, under certain circumstances in his life, he may marry. He will avert himself from certain persons. He will not talk nonsense when drunk, as Epicurus says in his *Synopsis*. He will not participate in politics, as he says in the first book of his work *On Life*, or make himself a tyrant, or live like a Cynic (as he says in the second book of his work *On Life*), or be a beggar. But even when he has lost his sight he will not withdraw from life, as he says in that same book. The wise man will also

311