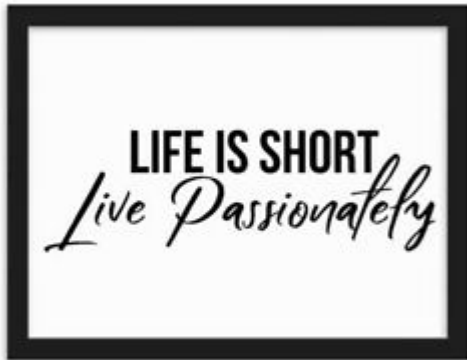


To What Extent Is This Consistent With Epicurean Ethics: "Life is Short - Life Passionately"

Post by "Cassius" of October 6, 2021 at 4:08 PM



This comes to mind because of reading this clip from Wikipedia on Chrysippus:

On Passions [edit]

Main article: On Passions

The Stoics sought to be free of the unruly emotions, which they regarded as being contrary to nature. The passions or emotions (*pathe*) are the disturbing element in right judgment.^[93] Chrysippus wrote a whole book, *On Passions* (Greek: Περὶ παθῶν), concerning the therapy of the emotions.^[96] The passions are like diseases which depress and crush the soul, thus he sought to eradicate them (*apatheia*).^[96] Wrong judgements turn into passions when they gather an impetus of their own, just as, when one has started running, it is difficult to stop.^[97] One cannot hope to eradicate the emotions when one is in the heat of love or anger: this can only be done when one is calm.^[98] Therefore, one should prepare in advance, and deal with the emotions in the mind as if they were present.^[99] By applying reason to emotions such as greed, pride, or lust, one can understand the harm which they cause.^[99]

The word "passion" and "passionately" probably have to us today negative connotations that hurt this as a summary. But to the extent that "pathe" is the Greek work that probably best summarizes the element of the Canon of Truth that we generally summarize as "pleasure and pain," and to the extent that Laertius says that Epicurus held that the wise man feels his emotions more deeply than the unwise, there's a large element of applicability.

Maybe the graphic serves best as a talking point in a discussion of ethics or epistemology, especially helpful in distinguishing Epicurus from the Stoics, but regardless I thought it worth committing a thread to it.