

Compassion in Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Eikadistes" of February 9, 2022 at 9:51 AM

I'm also partially splitting hairs, in that *sym-* (Gk.) and *com-* (Lat.) mean nearly the same thing, and *-pathos* (Gk.) and *passion* (Lat.) are directly related. However, the *-pathos* (in "sympathy") links directed to a word that Epicurus, himself employed to refer to one of the three criteria of knowledge. Whereas, hundreds of years later in Italy, the idea of "passion", linguistically, was developing parallel to the Christian myth, which lead to a different historical connotation.

Noting the slight different between **feeling** as *judgments of pleasure versus pain* as opposed to **passion** as *an undesirable emotional disturbance* helps highlight what I propose to be the Epicurean rejection of the idea of *unconditional pity*. It also helps illuminate the idea of an "untroubled being" (KD1) and its incompatibility with *kharisi* (or "care"). A being that is not weak will not weaken itself; it will empower those around it to achieve a similar state of robust security.