

An Epicurean Understanding of Valentine's Day: Love, Romance, and Free-will

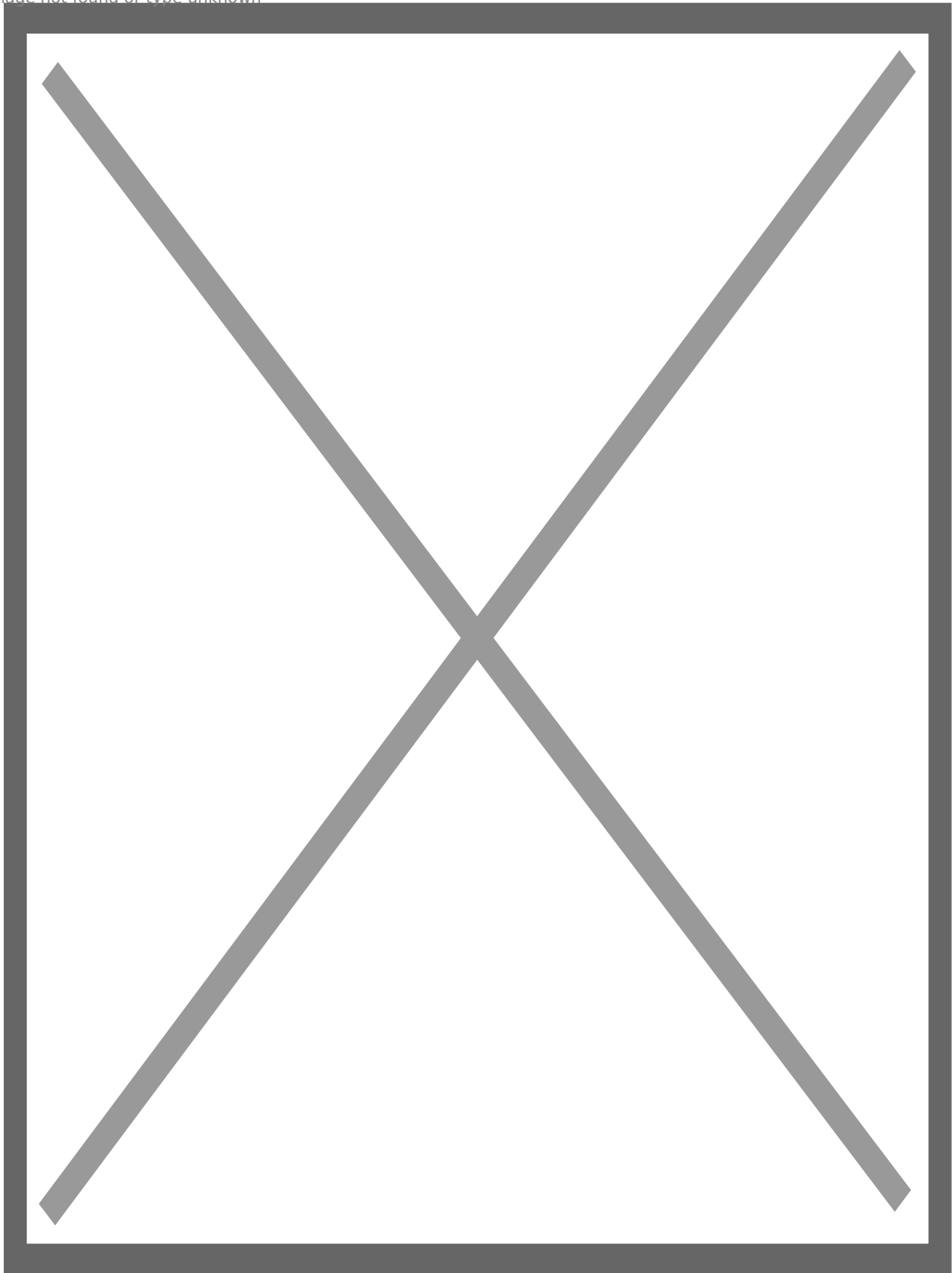
Post by “Kalosyni” of February 14, 2022 at 1:28 PM

Happy Valentine's Day everyone! 

Epicurean wisdom is to enjoy pleasures which do not result in an excess of pain, but to pursue those things which produce more pleasures in the long run. Perhaps then we must use the virtue of love to create pleasure, for it is a pleasure and a joy to love, and to love one's own beloved and to love one's friends.

As an aside...here is a link to "Carte de Tendre"...a 1654 French "map of love", showing the many dangers that can befall the path of romance.

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[Map of Tendre - Wikipedia](#)

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2342-an-epicurean-understanding-of-valentine-s-day-love-romance-and-free-will/?postID=16828#post16828>

en.m.wikipedia.org

A wise person will make good choices and will be able to enjoy love and loving with less pain than an unwise person who rushes in too quickly.

It is important to note that Epicurus wrote a book on "Love" and it is listed in third place in Diogenes Laertius book 10...and also a book on "Touch" (much further down on the list)...we can only guess, since these were lost.

Quote

Such then, so numerous are the works of [Epicurus](#); the chief of which are the following:

- thirty-seven treatises on Natural Philosophy;
- one on Atoms and the Void;
- one on Love;
- an abridgment of the Arguments employed against the Natural Philosophers;
- one against the Doctrines of the [Megarians](#);
- Problems;
- Fundamental Propositions;
- a treatise on Choice and Avoidance;
- another on the Chief Good;
- another on the Criterion, called also the [Canon](#);
- [Chaeredemus](#), a treatise on the Gods;
- one on Piety;
- [28] [G Hegesianax](#)
- four essays on Lives;
- one on Just Dealing;
- [Neocles](#);
- one essay addressed to [Themista](#);
- the Banquet;
- [Eurylochus](#);
- one essay addressed to [Metrodorus](#);
- one on Seeing;
- one on the Angle in an Atom;
- one on Touch;
- one on Fate;
- Opinions on the Passions;
- one treatise addressed to [Timocrates](#);
- Prognostics;
- Exhortations;
- a treatise on Images;
- one on Perceptions;
- [Aristobulus](#);

- an essay on Music;
- one on Justice and the other Virtues;
- one on Gifts and Gratitude;
- *Polymedes*;
- *Timocrates*, a treatise in three books;
- *Metrodorus*, in five books;
- [Antidorus](#), in two books;
- Opinions about Diseases, addressed to [Mithras](#);
- *Callistolas*;
- an essay on Kingly Power;
- *Anaximenes*;
- Letters.

Since pleasure is our guide, we can know the right path to take by paying attention.

May you love with pleasure, joy, and prudence!