

Cultivation of Friendship within Epicureanism

Post by “Kalosyni” of March 9, 2022 at 10:31 AM

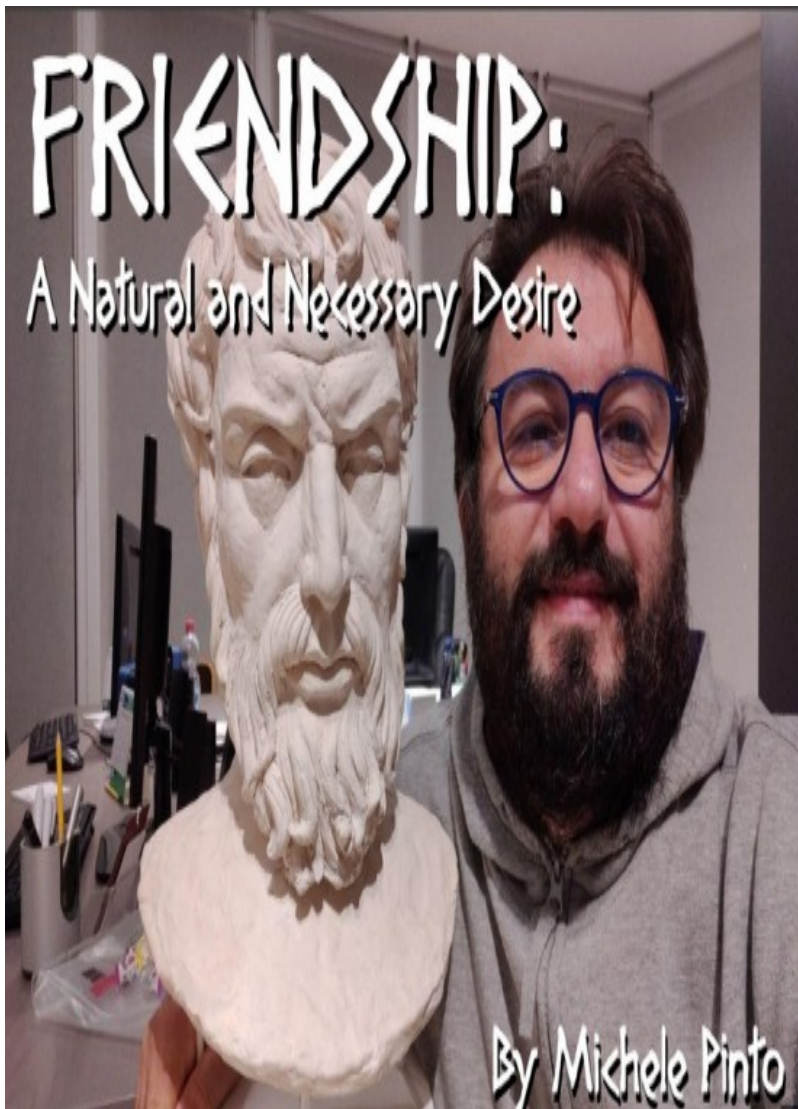
Meditations on the importance of friendship -- this writing by Michele Pinto (which I just discovered today) starts off with an idea of solitary happiness and then moves forward to cite Epicurean references on friendship and the importance of friendship.

Quote

Epicurus traveled to friends, and wrote letters such as these: "*I am quite ready, if you do not come to see me, to spin thrice on my own axis and be propelled to any place that you, including Themista, agree upon.*" (U 125), "*The way in which you have provided for me in the matter of sending the grain was godlike and magnificent, and you have given tokens of your regard for me that reach to high heaven.*" (U 183).

Epicurus and his friends worked to build a network of relations throughout Greece, so much so that the wise man of the Garden came to sing: "*Friendship dances around the world, bidding us all to awaken to the recognition of happiness!*" (VS 52).

Friendship is therefore an essential ingredient in the recipe of happiness, so much so that Epicurus no longer speaks of the happiness of the wise, but of the happiness of the community of friends: "*As many as possess the power to procure complete immunity from their neighbours, these also live most pleasantly with one another, since they have the most certain pledge of security, and, after they have enjoyed the fullest intimacy, they do not lament the previous departure of a dead friend, as though he were to be pitied.*" (PD 40) and "*The noble soul occupies itself with wisdom and friendship; of these, the one is a mortal good, the other immortal.*" (SV 78).



Blog Article

[Michele Pinto: "Friendship: A Natural And Necessary Desire"](#)

Inspired by the considerations on the Epicurean friendship of Phillip Mithis in the book "The Ethical Theory of Epicurus - The pleasures of Invulnerability," I want to summarize the thought of Epicurus on friendship, trying to use his own words as much as possible, and adding mine where necessary. I am indebted to Carlo Diano because his thematic collection of Epicurus's maxims was essential. The first Epicurean festival, whose general theme was about friendship, was also very useful. I thank

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<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2345-cultivation-of-friendship-within-epicureanism/?postID=17152#post17152>



Cassius

November 1, 2019 at 3:38 PM