

PD19 And The Meaning Of No "Greater" Pleasure

Post by "Don" of August 11, 2022 at 7:37 AM

I don't believe you can read [PD20](#) in isolation. You have to read it as it was most likely written, in context with the surrounding text.

In fact, I took a look at the Arundel MS 531 to try and figure out where the breaks in the text were at least in this manuscript from 1450-1500:

https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=arundel_ms_531_fs001r

(Flip to page f.177r (folio 177 reverse))

In line 9, there seems to be a specific gap right before what we call [PD18](#): Οὐκ ἐπαύξεται... So, we start reading this section from [PD18](#) and read on until we get another gap. I'm using Saint-Andre's translations. The next gap to my eye appears to be in line 3 on the next page (177v)

Lo and behold, that ends with καὶ ταραχῆς ἔσται μεστά. which is the end of [PD22](#).

[PD18](#) through [PD22](#) should then be read as a complete paragraph:

Quote

As soon as the pain produced by the lack of something is removed, pleasure in the flesh is not increased but only embellished. Yet the limit of enjoyment in the mind is produced by thinking through these very things and similar things, which once provoked the greatest fears in the mind. Finite time and infinite time contain the same amount of joy, if its limits are measured out through reasoning. The flesh assumes that the limits of joy are infinite, and that infinite joy can be produced only through infinite time. But the mind, thinking through the goal and limits of the flesh and dissolving fears about eternity, produces a complete way of life and therefore has no need of infinite time; yet the mind does not flee from joy, nor when events cause it to exit from life does it look back as if it has missed any aspect of the best life. One who perceives the limits of life knows how easy it is to expel the pain produced by a lack of something and to make one's entire life complete; so that there is no need for the things that are achieved through struggle. You must reflect on the fundamental goal and everything that is clear, to which opinions are referred; if you do not, all will be full of trouble and confusion.

This makes sense in that it begins talking about "thinking through these very things.." and ends with "You must reflect on..."

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2628-pd19-and-the-meaning-of-no-greater-pleasure/?postID=19256#post19256>

Those are my initial contributions to the topic: Don't try to parse it in isolation.

I'll no doubt have more to say as the thread continues, but the day calls me and I must answer (if I want to get paid ya know 😊).