

PD19 And The Meaning Of No "Greater" Pleasure

Post by "Don" of August 13, 2022 at 8:09 AM

Quote

He liveth long who liveth well

See, that's my issue. The "Christian hymnology" citation is superfluous and wrong.

Here's the source of that line that Dewitt is citing:

<https://allpoetry.com/He-Liveth-Long-Who-Liveth-Well>

That hymn seems to me to be the opposite of what Epicurus stood for. Bonar is saying "living well" is keeping your eye on heavenly rewards not the here and now in THIS life, the only one we have.

Quote

He liveth long who liveth well;

All other life is short and vain;

He liveth longest who can tell

Of living most for heavenly gain.

He liveth long who liveth well;

All else is being flung away;

He liveth longest who can tell

Of true things truly done each day.

Be what thou seemest; live thy creed;

Hold up to earth the torch divine:

Be what thou prayest to be made;

Let the great Master's steps be thine.

Fill up each hour with what will last;

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2628-pd19-and-the-meaning-of-no-greater-pleasure/?postID=19286#post19286>

Buy up the moments as they go;
The life above, when this is past,
Is the ripe fruit of life below.
Sow love, and taste its fruitage pure;
Sow peace, and reap its harvest bright;
Sow sunbeams on the rock and moor,
And find a harvest-home of light.

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Yuck!! "The life above, when this is past, Is the ripe fruit of life below"?! 🤢 😡 That's certainly not the Epicurean fruit to be plucked.

I find Dewitt doing this too often: taking a line or phrase out of context and imbuing it with meaning it doesn't necessarily have.

Maybe this is another hymn that needs an Epicurean do-over.

PS. I'll stop there. I don't want to derail this thread with a polemic against Dewitt. I think he's a top-shelf scholar and I like his academic papers, but, by Zeus, "Epicurus and His Philosophy" (not to mention his "St Paul..") suffers from some flaws in presentation that, for me, make it hard to fully embrace it.