

PD19 And The Meaning Of No "Greater" Pleasure

Post by "Cassius" of August 22, 2022 at 9:30 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

My take is that the situation was disturbing to him in many respects. He wasn't (necessarily) looking for "crowns and the erection of statues in one's honour." I think there are parallels with Torquatus's Epicurean justifications for his ancestor's actions.

I think you are right. I have never personally been able to unpack the situation at the time of the Roman civil war to get a good picture of what was really going on. What does seem clear is that it was a time of great change within the Roman social structure, and those who wished the older structure to continue considered themselves so personally threatened by the changes that they were willing to go to war. I think you're absolutely right to separate "crowns and statues" from more real-world issues. It's hard to think of things that are more unnecessary to a happy life than "crowns and statues." I presume to a large degree those represent recognition "by the crowd" which Epicurus was notably on record as not holding in high regard.

And while Cassius is best known for his part in the assassination, this part is equally interesting:

Quote

Cicero associates Cassius's new Epicureanism with a willingness to seek peace in the aftermath of the [civil war between Caesar and Pompeius](#).^[26] [Miriam Griffin](#) dates his conversion to as early as 48 BC, after he had fought on the side of Pompeius at the [Battle of Pharsalus](#) but decided to come home instead of joining the last holdouts of the [civil war](#) in [Africa](#).^[27] Momigliano placed it in 46 BC, based on a letter by Cicero to Cassius dated January 45.^[28] Shackleton Bailey points to a date of two or three years earlier.^[29]