

# Response to Pain; Positive Thinking ? Comparision with Cynics and (modern) Stoics

Post by "Cassius" of August 23, 2022 at 6:24 AM

As I have time to read it, I see some good material:

## Quote

As an initial exercise, here is another set of words to think about. Where are we on these words?

- unmoved apathetic calm
- impassive serene unflappable
- tranquil unfeeling placid
- unsentimental unemotional unruffled

If you are like me and like my students, you can easily identify several of these words as negative words that you would not want to hear applied to yourself. Others are more complimentary; some might even be neutral. But the point of interest here is that if you make the effort to strip away the positive or negative valence of these words, all of them mean pretty much the same thing: they describe a person who doesn't respond emotionally in situations where many people would.

He is right - those terms DO evoke the same meaning, and that is why I am convinced that "tranquility" or especially the untranslated "ataraxia\*" and "aponia" are NOT the ultimate descriptions of the Epicurean goal and must be used with great caution: the correct word is "Pleasure."