

Epicurean nautical references, allusions, and metaphors in the texts

Post by “Joshua” of August 27, 2022 at 5:11 PM

Have you formulated any opinion as to the meaning of this?

Allow me to free-associate:

In his 31st Vatican Saying, Epicurus writes that *"it is possible to provide security against other things, but as far as death is concerned, we men all live in a city without walls."*

This condition is not at all times apparent to all of us; so that the necessary first step in philosophical instruction is to convince the student that their's is a condition which requires philosophical intervention. But just as the physician contends not only with injuries and disease, but also with quacks and charlatans who exacerbate them, the philosopher will find that the whole of the earth has been salted against his seeds.

Does he wish to illustrate the precarious condition of his listeners? Their ears are ringing with the promises of a false security--of a life beyond the grave--of the spiritual power of the church and the temporal power of institutions. They--we--must be made to adventure on life, then, so as to remember its perils, and no one who puts forth on open water will have forgotten them.

Epicurus' invitation to the sea is then, rightly understood, an invitation to philosophy. It is an invitation to throw off false security, and in our danger find real peace in the freedom from fear.