

Episode One Hundred Thirty-Seven - The Letter to Menoecus 04 - On Death (Part Two)

Post by “Don” of September 2, 2022 at 1:47 PM

Okay, so it is the word "poetry" writ large:

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, ποι-ητικός](#)

But is that it? That's what everybody pegs Epicurus's dislike and distrust of poetry to?

Here's my take on that verse from my site:

[Epicurean Sage - Living Unknown](#)

The Epicureans are said to have encouraged *lathe biosas*, living unknown or not calling attention to oneself. This is a controversial fragment, but Diogenes...

[sites.google.com](#)

Only the wise man will be competent to discuss music and poetry without writing poems of their own. (120)

Hicks: Only the wise man will be able to converse correctly about music and poetry, without however actually writing poems himself.

Yonge: The wise man is the only person who can converse correctly about music and poetry; and he can realise poems, but not become a poet.

Mensch: Only the wise man will be competent to discuss music and poetry, though he will not write poems himself.

This is apparently due to the wise one's study in multiple subjects connected with music and poetry. So, they have enough knowledge to talk intelligently about music and poetry but find no need to compose works themselves. Consider too that poetry and music would be performed in front of others, most likely in gatherings. This is then akin to the *lathe biosas* characteristics elsewhere in the list!