

Episode One Hundred Thirty Eight - Letter to Menoecus 5 - Pleasure Part One

Post by "reneliza" of September 9, 2022 at 8:33 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Excellent quote Godfrey! That is one we do not talk about much but looks very relevant.

[Quote from reneliza](#)

Really just what I've been saying - that I have no conception of desire that is without any pain

And maybe that is exactly an artifact of the corruption of the modern monotheistic world and misrepresentaton of Epicurean philosophy - that you and a lot of people DONT have such a conception(?). And for that reason that may be why this point needs to be pounded home in modern Epicurean discussion.

Were you by chance raised Catholic? 😊

I totally agree - and have no offense since I was raised atheist and materialist (fairly hedonistic, even). I have gone through my own crises of "faith" but was always taught that there's only one life, so the point of it is to live it.

While it's possible that this is an artifact just from existing in America and absorbing certain ideas, I'm not sure that's it. Because I don't think of people with desires as morally bad or wrong any more than I think that of people dealing with any other kind of pain. I definitely don't think that desires should be suppressed, because that is generally going to end up with some other complications either psychological or physical.

I think the path to "zero desire" (noting it's not a permanent state since you'll always need to eat again) is to meet all the desires you can and expunge the rest. Of course picking and choosing the ones that will actually bring more pleasure than pain to meet.

I can conceive of motivators to action that aren't inherently painful (I think I can, anyway) but are only preferences. I suppose this is what the unnecessary desires are meant to be. I just can't conceive of using the word desire there. Maybe my understanding of the word is just too strong?

In researching some things I also just found a forum where someone described Epicurus as "the first pro-ana" so... this is what we have to work with ☐☐☐

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2651-episode-one-hundred-thirty-eight-letter-to-menoecus-5-pleasure-part-one/?postID=19753#post19753>