

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

Post by “DavidN” of September 11, 2022 at 4:37 PM

It's from Philodemus, quotes or paraphrasing depending on the scholar, Metrodorus.

Philodemus and Metrodorus are on the same page throughout: successful property-management is neither following the Cynics and living in a tub to avoid the bother, nor getting so obsessed with it as to be (in Philodemus' vivid—if restored—phrase) “trapping oneself on treadmills” (XIV.28). It is taking trouble, but trouble that will pay off and help not just you but your friends (is *allakton* for greater pleasure, XV.37, XIX.22, and *parametrētrikon tōi phusikōi telei*, in a measure that accords with natural goals, XVII.45, cf. XXV.47) And if it does not pay off, then you must take more trouble, not less. This treatise sheds more light than any other Herculaneum text on the “hedonic calculus” by which the Epicureans could justify an all-but-Stoic amount of painstaking, just to ensure and secure pleasure.

[Philodemus, On Property Management. Writings from the Greco-Roman world, 33 - Bryn Mawr Classical Review](#)