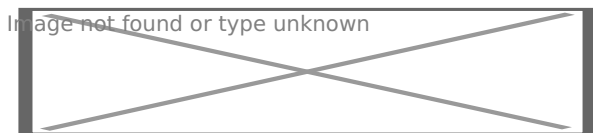


An Epicurean Study of Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics

Post by "Don" of October 27, 2022 at 8:39 AM

This is a little of track but I had to share this while I was poking around:



[CHANCE \(τύχη\), FATE \(εἰμαρμένη\), 'WHATDEPENDS ON US' \(τὸ ἐφ' ἡμῖν\) AND PROVIDENCE \(πρόνοια\) IN PLUTARCH'S QUAESTIONES CONVIVALES](#)

ABSTRACT One of the many philosophical issues discussed throughout Plutarch's Quaestiones...
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Quote

When, during a discussion on the use of flowers during the symposium, it is argued that their only natural purpose is to produce visual and olfactory pleasure, it is not implied the Epicurean doctrine of ἡδονή as τέλος.¹⁷ According to Erato (a friend of Plutarch), flowers produce pleasure only because they were created with that particular purpose:

[...] ἔν γὰρ αὐτὸ δοκεῖ τούναντίον, εἰ μηδὲν ἢ φύσις, ὡς ὑμεῖς φατε, μάτην πεποίηκε, ταῦτα τῆς ἡδονῆς πεποιῆσθαι χάριν, ἃ μηδὲν ἄλλο χρήσιμον ἔχοντα μόνον εὐφραίνειν πέφυκεν. (646C3-5)

[...] for I think, on the contrary, that if nature has made nothing in vain (as you claim, I believe), it is for pleasure's sake that she has made what by their nature only serve to delight us and possess no other useful quality.

That is a VERY narrow view of the natural world from Plutarch.