

An Epicurean Study of Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics

Post by "Cassius" of November 2, 2022 at 8:17 PM

Boy this quote attributed to Philodemus on page 28 is highly useful in many contexts to affirm the Epicurean rejection of the view that things can be considered absolutely to be praised or denounced:

The equation of this hedonistic calculus with ἐπιλογισμός is confirmed by a passage in which Philodemus discusses the apportioning of praise and blame:¹³²
οὐ μὴν ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ | πρᾶγμα καθ' ἑαυτὸ τοῖς | ὅλοις οὐθ[έ]ν [έ]στιν ἐπαι[[νε]-
τὸν ἢ ψεκτόν, ἀλλὰ | [γε]ίνεται τὸ μὲν καθόσον ὁμολογεῖ τῷ τέλει | τῶν
ἀγαθῶν, τὸ δὲ καθόσον τῷ τῶν κακῶν, | ὁ μὴ ταῦτ' ἐγνωκῶς ἐπιλελογισμέ-
ως οὐδὲ κατὰ τὴν ἀναφορὰν τὴν | ἐπ' αὐτὰ δ[ι]ορίζειν δυνή|σεται τὰ
λαμβάνόμενα | πρὸς τοὺς ἐπαίνους 'Nevertheless, since nothing is in
itself universally commendable or blameworthy, but becomes commendable
insofar as it conforms to the end of the good, and blameworthy insofar as it
conforms to the end of the bad, the man who has not by an empirical calcul-
ation obtained this knowledge will not be able to use it as a standard of
reference for analysing that which is under consideration for commendation...'.
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