

Did Epicurus Commit Suicide Due To His Disease? (Merger of Two Threads On When Voluntary Death Makes Sense)

Post by "Cassius" of December 8, 2022 at 6:19 AM

Looks like there's an article here but I can't get to it:
<https://www.suicideinfo.ca/resource/siecno-20030345/>

As usual I don't think we are far apart. Suicide (or acts leading to your own death in any circumstances) is a final option that would never be chosen except in extreme circumstances. However I am still persuaded that extreme circumstances do exist that would warrant it, and if in fact Epicurus knew that that day would be his last, and he thought his pain was outweighable by the pleasure available to him, I would still put that in the first category of endurable pain. It is when you face the possibility of lengthy pain you deem to be unendurable, such as having failed to save the life of a friend, or perhaps facing a lengthy torture, rather than instant death, that I would see "exiting the play when it has ceased to please us" as a viable option.

And in support of that spirit I would enlist "spitting contempt on life and on those who cling to it" as the same spirit of taking charge of your death just as you take charge of your life:

VS47. I have anticipated thee, Fortune, and I have closed off every one of your devious entrances. And we will not give ourselves up as captives, to thee or to any other circumstance; but when it is time for us to go, spitting contempt on life and on those who cling to it maundering, we will leave from life singing aloud a glorious triumph-song on how nicely we lived.