

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

Post by "Don" of December 8, 2022 at 8:26 AM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

I would see "exiting the play when it has ceased to please us" as a viable option.

As I mentioned, I don't see that line as saying what you're interpreting it as. I see it as having no more concern for the approach of imminent death as one would in "exiting the play when it has ceased to please us." The emphasis is not on an active walking out or actively killing oneself that's the metaphor. It's accepting one's imminent death "animo aequo" with no more concern than walking out of a play that has no pleasure anymore. "Torquatus" acknowledges that there is no pleasure in the pain, but death is imminent so it's time to not regret or complain to the gods and so on. It's time to hold on to the only thing you have left in your final moments,

"animo aequo".

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

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.

Same here for Metrodorus's Vatican Saying. You seem to imply that he encourages us to kill ourselves while "singing aloud a glorious triumph-song on how nicely we lived." I don't get that at all. He's a little hyperbolic but he's encouraging the same things as I've mentioned above. When the end comes and you know what's coming, sing "a glorious triumph-song on how nicely we lived." Don't cling needlessly to life if you're dying. Don't try to bargain with the gods. If you've lived well, be happy for that! Life is done. Take the example of Epicurus's death and look back on a life well-lived with pleasant memories as death is imminent.