

PD03 - Comparison of PD3 With Seneca Moral Letter to Lucilius 66

Post by "Cassius" of February 9, 2019 at 1:02 PM

This is a clear statement of the "mixture" argument, applied by Seneca to virtue, but the same argument requires the conclusion, from Epicurus' point of view, that nothing can be added to pleasure to make it better:

16. For if things which are extrinsic to virtue can either diminish or increase virtue, then that which is honourable [ceases to be the only good. If you grant this, honour has wholly perished.](#)

To me this sounds like a word game - a logic game - no wonder the Epicurean separated themselves from "logic" and dialectic. It's almost as if - if PD3 was required as a response to a word game like this, then the enemies of human happiness have to be ranked as:

- (1) Priests - Overcoming fear of domination by gods in this life
- (2) Death - Overcoming fear of being dead and what might happen in a next life
- (3) False philosophy - Overcoming logicians and their twisting of words about how we should spend our time.