

Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by “Don” of May 27, 2023 at 2:34 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Also: [VS11](#). For most men rest is stagnation, and activity is madness.

I wonder if the word translated as "stagnation" there is relevant?

[VS11](#)

τῶν πλείστων ἀνθρώπων τὸ μὲν ἡσυχάζον ναρκᾶ, τὸ δὲ κινούμενον λυττᾶ.

My translation is:

For the majority of people, to be at rest is to be bored stiff; but to be active is to be raving like a rabid dog.

ἡσυχάζω I. to be still, keep quiet, be at rest

νάρκη I. numbness, deadness, Lat. torpor

So, fwiw the letter doesn't use the same word as [VS11](#), but I think Cassius may be onto something.