

# Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by "Elli" of May 29, 2023 at 2:22 PM

Hello to all the epicurean friends. 😊

"Όταν οὖν λέγωμεν ἡδονὴν τέλος ὑπάρχει, οὐ τὰς τῶν ἀσώτων ἡδονὰς καὶ τὰς ἐν ἀπολαύσει κειμένας λέγομεν"

<τὰς ἐν ἀπολαύσει κειμένας>.

Yes, indeed, in this phrase there no the greek word "αἰσθησις" or "αισθησιακός" in english as "sensual".

If we translate "τας εν απολαύσει κειμένας" as "sensual enjoyments" or "sensual pleasures", it seems to be that the philosopher who glorified the senses, he rejects the senses. 😬

Note: the verb "κείμεναι" has a similar meaning with another greek word as "τίθημι" that means: "I put /find myself/be located".

From my understanding of the text <τὰς ἐν ἀπολαύσει κειμένας> Epicurus means "those enjoyments that lie out of limits".

My translation in the above phrase is:

"So when we say that pleasure is the end of life, we are not speaking of the pleasures of the profligates and those in the enjoyment (that lie out of limits). i.e. he means if we will pass the limits in the enjoyment we get sick or miserable.

And then Epicurus continues to describe what makes a pleasurable life for someone with prudence and sober reasoning for putting the proper LIMITS in : "drinkings and feasts, and enjoyments with boys and women, and luxuries dinners with fish etc".