

Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by “Don” of May 30, 2023 at 10:25 AM

Epicurus is writing about two mistaken ideas about his philosophy here: he does not mean the pleasures of the profligates *nor* τας εν κειμένας απολαύσεις. He is refuting two mistaken understandings of his philosophy. He could very well to my eye be contrasting the mistaken views that Epicureans indulged the wild pleasures of the profligate *and* the exact opposite of indolence or laziness.

[Quote from Elli](#)

<τας εν κειμένας απολαύσεις> = <those that lie in enjoyments> [those enjoyments that are out of limits] and this is what Epicurus means. 😊

I still don't see how you're going from <those that lie in enjoyments> to getting [those enjoyments that are out of limits]. That seems to me to be reading meaning into the words that isn't there from what I can see. To me, Epicurus wrote what he meant and meant what we wrote. I'm not seeing that meaning in the literal words.

Epicurus uses a related word (κεμαι with a prefix) in Fragment 207:

Fragment 207. Better to lie serene upon a bed of straw than to be full of troubles on a golden chair at an overflowing table.

κρείσσον δὲ σοι θαρρεῖν ἐπὶ στιβάδος κατακειμένω ἢ ταραττεσθαι χρυσοῦν ἔχοντι γλίνην καὶ πολυτελεῆ τράπεζαν.

It seems to me that Saint-Andre was generally correct in using the meaning of "lie down to rest, repose."