

Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by "Don" of May 30, 2023 at 12:40 PM

[Quote from Elli](#)

And I do not see how you're going from the feelings (enjoyments) and interpret them - metaphorically - to getting them onto the bed because they are sleepy! 🤔

The construction of the two phrases is very similar:

1. τὰς τῶν ἀσώτων ἡδονὰς

καὶ "and"

2. τὰς ἐν ἀπολαύσει κειμένας

which Epicurus seems fond of doing in pairs.

τὰς ἡδονὰς "the pleasures"

τῶν ἀσώτων "of the prodigal"

τὰς κειμένας "the lying down (to lie idle, to rest, to lie still)"

ἐν ἀπολαύσει "in enjoyment"

The second phrase to me implies lethargic inactivity while the first, the profligate one, implies wild activity. Epicurus is saying both are wrong understandings of his philosophy.