

Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by “Don” of May 31, 2023 at 11:49 PM

Okay, last thoughts for today...

I continue to suspect that the phrases in question τὰς τῶν ἀσώτων ἡδονὰς καὶ τὰς ἐν ἀπολαύσει κειμένας are digs at the Cyrenaics but not for the reason I said earlier (the being dead/asleep part). With the Latin synonyms of ἀπολύσει being Oblectatio and Delectatio, and those being based, it appears, on delighting *primarily* in the senses, in sensual pleasures; I think Epicurus is still talking about the Cyrenaics' only accepting "kinetic" sensual pleasures as pleasure. They don't include the mental, katastematic pleasures in their definition of pleasure. They are "those who don't agree with us, or those who believe wrongly." The prodigals are "those who are ignorant." So, the whole section could be something like:

*Therefore, whenever we say repeatedly that "pleasure is the τέλος," we do not say the pleasure of those who are prodigal **and those who are lying in sensual delight* like those who are ignorant, those who don't agree with us, or those who believe wrongly; but we mean that which neither pains the body nor troubles the mind.*

He's talking in those last lines about aponia and ataraxia. ταραττεσθαι κατὰ ψυχὴν "troubles the mind" uses tarattesthai which is related to a-taraxia.