

Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by “Don” of June 3, 2023 at 8:12 AM

I just realized Epicurus also uses ἀπολαυστὸν in the letter in line 124:

ὅθεν γνῶσις ὀρθὴ τοῦ μηθὲν εἶναι πρὸς ἡμᾶς τὸν θάνατον ἀπολαυστὸν ποιεῖ τὸ τῆς ζωῆς θνητόν,

I've translated that was simply:

"So, correct understanding is that death is nothing for us, and this is what makes the mortality of life enjoyable:"

But it's not just "enjoyable", it's fully taking advantage of the time that is available between birth and death.

So, 124, 130, 131, and 132 all need to be read in relation to each other to get at the meaning in 131. Which both complicates the process and makes it more interesting.