

Porphyry - Letter to Marcella - "Vain Is the Word of the Philosopher..."

Post by "Elli" of June 15, 2023 at 9:29 AM

28. "Consequently, even the gods have prescribed remaining pure by abstinence from food and sex".

And then, he continues his letter with his cunnings: He unites the pure abstinence from food and sex with some sayings by Epicurus (without mentioning him) and in the basis of self-sufficiency and the like, he speaks about a law of Nature without mentioning anywhere what the heck is that law; and **what is real goal by Nature!!!** For him, the word "**pleasure**" is nowhere inside that letter. His letter suffers from the illness of "moralism". 🤪

imo, only an old paralyzed stoic man reaching the end of his life would write these things, and in such a way to his wife.

Poor Marcella, I empathize you, since you were widow with seven children, and maybe desperate for marrying such an old man reaching the end of his life!

For this reason and to unclear the whole situation with the platonists and stoics Epicurus said loudly this: <<**I don't know how I could conceive of the good without the pleasures of taste, of sex, of hearing, and without the pleasing motions caused by the sight of bodies and forms**>>.