

Episode 180 - "Epicurus And His Philosophy" Part 32

- Chapter 13 - The True Piety 03

Post by "Cassius" of June 29, 2023 at 6:33 PM

This episode is in editing stages and should be out by this weekend. We did indeed finish chapter 13, so it may be a little longer than normal.

In the meantime one of the topics covered very briefly (in "Incorruptibility and Virtue starting on page 267) is the issue documented by deWitt from several texts that the gods act to sustain their deathlessness and that they are not by nature immortal. DeWitt provides several cites for this very unexpected notion (but it does make sense if nothing but atoms are eternally the same) to which I would analogize Vatican Saying 37, which might relate to the gods being sustained by their pleasures in the same way that humans are "saved" or sustained by pleasures. It's an interesting thought to consider that the gods' deathlessness may arise from their continuous pleasures rather than that their pleasures simply number among them those that arise from being deathless and how such an idea might explain some of the references Epicurus makes about pleasures.

VS37. Nature is weak toward evil, not toward good: because it is saved by pleasures, but destroyed by pains.