

Modern Neuroscience And The Katastematic / Kinetic Debate

Post by “Don” of July 2, 2023 at 11:04 PM

There aren't a lot of opportunities, but I decided to try and replace single words with either katastematic or kinetic pleasure.

It should also be remembered that the phrase "kinetic pleasure" isn't *actually* what Epicurus says. What he says is (as literally as I can make it):

"Peace of mind (ataraxia) and freedom from pain (aponia) are condition/state pleasures; joy (khara) and delight (euphrosyne) are seen in relation to (κατὰ) motion (κίνησις) by means of activity (ἐνεργεία)."

ἡ μὲν γὰρ ἀταραξία καὶ <ή> ἀπονία καταστηματικαί εἰσιν ἡδοναί. ἡ δὲ χαρὰ καὶ ἡ εὐφροσύνη κατὰ κίνησιν ἐνεργεία βλέπονται (seen).

ἐνεργεία is a dative case of ἐνέργεια which comes up in Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics: See <https://sites.google.com/view/epicurean...n-ethics-book-1>

Epicurus also uses the word in the Letter to Herodotus:

[37] "Hence, since such a course is of service to all who take up natural science, I, who devote to the subject my continuous ****energy**** (τὸ συνεχές ****ἐνέργημα****) and ****reap the calm enjoyment of a life**** (ἐγγαληνίζων) like this, have prepared for you just such an epitome and manual of the doctrines as a whole.

Here are my replacments:

519. The greatest fruit of justice is a katastematic pleasure (serenity).

δικαιοσύνης καρπὸς μέγιστος ἀταραξία.

Letter to Menoikeus:

The steady contemplation of these facts enables you to understand everything that you accept or reject in terms of the health of the body and the katastematic pleasure (serenity) of the soul — since that is the goal of a completely happy life.

so that in old age you can be youthful by taking kinetic pleasure (joy) in the good things you remember

τῷ μὲν ὅπως γηράσκων νεάζῃ τοῖς ἀγαθοῖς διὰ τὴν χάριν τῶν γεγονότων

(LOL! Well that blows my memories are katastematic pleasure out of the water!!)

Scholion to the Letter to Herodotus, DL.10.66

[He says elsewhere that the soul is composed of the smoothest and roundest of atoms, far superior in both respects to those of fire ; that part of it is irrational, this being scattered over the rest of the frame, while the rational part resides in the chest, as is manifest from our fears and our kinetic pleasure (joy)

(Interesting note here is that fear is contrasted with a kinetic pleasure. Not sure if there's any significance, but there you have it.)