

Episode 182 - "Epicurus And His Philosophy" Part 34

- Chapter 14 - The New Virtues 02

Post by "Cassius" of July 9, 2023 at 7:01 AM

When we get to Honesty DeWitt quotes:

"In his book On Kingship he even advised monarchs to entertain themselves with military anecdotes or coarse buffoonery rather than try to counterfeit a refinement they did not possess. This advice must have been galling to young Platonists who groomed themselves for court appointments. It was galling to Plutarch, who reports it."

Here's the Perseus link to the Greek, but if they have the English I can't find the link:

[Plutarch, Non posse suaviter vivi secundum Epicurum, stephpage 1095c](#)

It doesn't seem easy to find an English translation of Non Posse so this is something we need to fix.

Edit: - http://demonax.info/doku.php?id=te...ine_of_epicurus

Edit2 - I have posted a copy of the Demonax version here. We need to clean this up over time as the formatting is off and the page numbers do not match how DeWitt quote it.: [Plutarch: That it is Not Possible to Live Pleasurably According to the Doctrine of Epicurus](#) If we can find a better public domain copy we can substitute it, or add the correct line numbers to this version.

Thanks to Don (see his post below):

As to the other delights of the mind, we have already treated of them, as they occurred to us. But their aversedness and dislike to music, that affords us so great delights and such charming satisfactions, a man could not forget if he would, by reason of the inconsistency of what Epicurus saith, when he pronounceth in his book called his Doubts that his wise man ought to be a lover of public spectacles and to delight above any other man in the music and shows of the Bacchanals; and yet he will not admit of music problems or of the critical enquiries of philologists, no, not so much as at a comotation. Yea, he advises such princes as are lovers of the Muses rather to entertain themselves at their feasts either with some narration of military adventures or with the importune scurrilities of drolls and buffoons, than to engage in disputes about music or in questions of poetry. For this very thing he had the face to write in his treatise of Monarchy, as if he were writing to Sardanapalus, or to Nanarus satrap of Babylon. For neither would a Hiero nor an Attalus nor an Archelaus be persuaded to make a Euripides, a Simonides, a Melanippides, a Crates, or a Diodotus rise up from their tables, and to place such scaramuchios in their rooms as a Cardax, an Agrias, or a Callias, or fellows like Thrasonides and Thrasyleon, to make people disorder the house with hollowing and clapping. Had the great

Ptolemy, who was the first that formed a consort of musicians, but met with these excellent and royal admonitions, would he not, think you, have thus addressed himself to the Samians:

Quote

O Muse, whence art thou thus maligned?