

DeWitt's "Organization And Procedure In Epicurean Groups"

Post by "Elli" of March 20, 2019 at 2:36 PM

The greek words are :

Σοφός = wise

Φιλόσοφοι = philosophers

Φιλολόγοι = philologists in US and UK lexicons are the classical "scholars".

Καθηγηταί = guides.

Συνήθεις = laymen.

Κατασκευαζόμενοι = those in preparation.

According to the above by Philodemus, I would like to mention this Epicurean Doctrine 21 : "He who has learned the limits of life knows that that which removes the pain due to want and makes the whole of life complete is easy to obtain, so that there is no need of actions which involve competition". For this reason on Epicurus's Description of the wise man we read : "One wise man is not wiser than another".

IMO, and in the basis of gratitude for our teacher Epicurus, all we are agreed that the only WISE was him, so there is not any competition among the epicureans who is the wiser than another.

The newbies, irrespective of their age, are "those in preparation". The philosophers are called as "guides" or as "excellent of friends", and not "leaders" or any kind of such political terminology. And that is because the concept of the word "leader" and its meaning immediately leads our mind to the word "crowds" i.e. "the leader of crowds". Moreover, Epicurus' Description of the Wise Man we read that : "The wise man gather together a school, but never so as to become a leader of crowds". Thus, Epicurus understood how easily someone would fall into the trap to establish a school, and to become a leader of crowds. 😞

Moreover, those "guides" or "the excellent of friends" they are not psychiatrists, since psychiatry is a medical school and needs a university diploma, as well as many many hours of psychoanalysis, by another psychiatrist. So, the most important that those "guides" or "excellent of friends" should do is constantly speaking and acting well of each other whether they are present or absent, because they have to be the same whether are asleep or awake.

As for myself I'm just an Epicurean lady from Hellas, and I do not accept any title as philosopher, philologist, scholar, guide, leader, but I accept that I was among to "those in

preparation". As for my mentors I recognize 4-5 as excellent of my epicurean friends, and please permit me to not mention their names, as they know who they are, because I have already expressed my feelings of gratitude and pleasure to them.

As far as concerns Philodemus, and his poetry makes me to think that from many ladies of our era, he will be considered as a little "sexist". And as an Epicurean lady that uses the methodology of the epicurean Canon, I can judge and Philodemus, and his poetry too. 🤔