

# August 2, 2023 - Wednesday Night Zoom Agenda - Vatican Sayings 16 & 17

Post by "Cassius" of August 3, 2023 at 2:17 PM

Ok thanks again. This is really interesting, in addition to being a good use of "sidenotes" we've discussed recently:



So this reference to the Galen and the Stoics does not refer explicitly or implicitly to our Philodemus reference (?) but to an independent Stoic concern for what happens to individual elements when they are mixed. So this reference appears to be a true discussion of physical medicine and is not related to our medicine for the "soul."

So there is apparently a reference to it in Cicero that we don't yet have nailed down (per the Gordon reference in wikipedia).

Quote

The point that might seem somewhat confusing is that, despite the process of fusion, the initial ingredients nevertheless always keep in a pharmacopoeia a form of presence, even if only etiological; we cannot explain the action of the *tetrapharmakos* only by the virtues of the ingredients which compose it, just as one can explain nature only by the action of primordial principles which however no longer exist as such in the bodies of which they are causes. To really understand the scope of the argument, it is necessary to return to the distinction to be made between this type of fused mixture and the mixture of moods, which does not eliminate the identity of the elements which compose it. This distinction can allow us to underline the all-out very paradoxical relationship of Galien to Stoic physics. This provides him, with the total mixture, with an epistemological model almost perfect for thinking of the humoral mixture (*crash*), and this even though: 1) the physical background explicitly claimed by Galien is not Stoic

but Aristotelian and 2) metaphysical reflection upstream of the properly physical content of *From elementis* uses, to think of the disciplinary division between physics, medicine and metaphysics, an example of mixture which is not total but fused<sup>30</sup>.