

# Would You Rather Live For A Week As (1) Epicurus During the Last Week of His Life or (2) An Anonymous Shepherd Laying In The Grass In The Summertime With No Pain At All?

Post by "Plantpierogi" of September 8, 2023 at 6:12 PM

There's no doubt that Epicurus was in an immense amount of pain during the last week of his life, and as illogical as it may sound, I would trade a lifetime of grass-laying shepherd days to experience what it must have been like for him during that time. Something so priceless as to be able to write to my most trusted friends and reflect on a lifetime of philosophical discussions is my ideal way to spend my final days. No greater pleasure exists for me. And to be able to do that through his eyes and his mind, given all that he has accomplished along with countless philosophical discussions? That isn't something that can so easily be recreated.

If I wanted to be a lay in the grass in the summertime for a week, I would simply wait 9 months. Besides, a shepherd's life never appealed to me, anyway.

In The Letter to Idomeneus, he writes:

[Quote from Cyril Bailey from his book "Epicurus, The Extant Remains."](#)

"On this blissful day, which is also the last of my life, I write this to you. My continual sufferings from strangury and dysentery are so great that nothing could increase them; but I set above them all the gladness of mind at the memory of our past conversations. But I would have you, as becomes your lifelong attitude to me and to philosophy, watch over the children of Metrodorus."

I could not imagine a more pleasant end.

(besides \*not\* suffering from strangury and dysentery, of course. Details)