

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 "Cassius" of September 12, 2023 at 6:55 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

Ataraxia is experienced as a mind untroubled by fear of the gods, anxiety about death, trust in that you are treating people justly and can expect the same in return.

Ok so it does in fact seem you are using ataraxia to describe a specific type of being untroubled (about gods and death primarily, but maybe including a few other things), and that you don't include the trouble of the sharp pain of advanced kidney disease to be within the scope of the word.

Are you saying also that this was specifically Epicurus' use of the word, or that this use applies every time the word ataraxia occurs in ancient Greek?

In the case of the gods it seems we have specific statements from Epicurus that show he was using a modified definition of a common term. Do we have similar statements in ancient Greek? I gather that there is evidence the word was used by the Stoics and perhaps Pyrrhonists, so this would be another word where Epicurus had a specific definition?

It would be helpful if it were but I gather that ataraxia is not the word used here(?)

[22] When he was on the point of death he wrote the following letter to Idomeneus: 'On this truly happy day of my life, as I am at the point of death, I write this to you. The disease in my bladder and stomach are pursuing their course, lacking nothing of their natural severity: but against all this is the joy in my heart at the recollection of my conversations with you. Do you, as I might expect from your devotion from boyhood to me and to philosophy, take good care of the children of Metrodorus.' Such then was his will.

30. Τὴν μακαρίαν ἄγοντες καὶ ἅμα τελευτῶντες ἡμέραν τοῦ βίου ἐγράφομεν ὑμῖν ταυτί· στραγγουρικά τε παρηκολούθει καὶ δυσεντερικὰ πάθη ὑπερβολὴν οὐκ ἀπολείποντα τοῦ ἐν

[Diogenes Laertius, Lives of Eminent Philosophers, I, ΕΠΙΚΟΥΡΟΣ](#)