

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 "Don" of September 12, 2023 at 8:15 AM

Here's C. CASSIUS LONGINUS TO CICERO in a letter (Cic. Fam. 15.19)

[Perseus Under Philologic: Cic. Fam. 15.19.1](#)

and joking with you in person. Nor does this come to pass owing to Catus's "images": [Note] for which expression I will in my next retort on you by quoting such a number of ill-educated Stoics, that you will acknowledge Catus to have been a true-born Athenian. That our friend Pansa left the city in military array with such expressions of goodwill from everybody, I rejoice both for his own sake and also, by Hercules, for the sake of all our party. For I hope that people will understand how odious cruelty is to everybody, and how attractive honesty

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and clemency: and that the objects which bad men seek and desire above everything come spontaneously to the good. For it is difficult to persuade men that "the good is desirable for its own sake": but that "pleasure" and "peace of mind" [Note]

ἀταραξίαν, a Stoic term. Cassius retorts on the Stoics that this ἀταραξία which they advocate is best obtained by the Epicurean doctrines.

are obtained by virtue, justice, and "the good" is both true and convincing. In fact, Epicurus himself says—from whom all your Catiuses and Amafiniuses, those poor translators of his words, proceed—"to live pleasantly is impossible without living well and justly." So it is that Pansa, whose summum bonum is "pleasure," keeps his virtue; and those too who are called by you "pleasure-lovers" are "lovers of the good" and "lovers of the just," [Note]

Cassius uses Greek words for these philosophical terms φιλήδονοι, φιλοκράτοι, φιλοδίκαιοι. For Sulla, see p.185.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3320-would-you-rather-live-for-a-week-as-1-epicurus-during-the-last-week-of-his-life/?postID=25956#post25956>

and practise and maintain all the virtues. Accordingly Sulla, whose

