

# Episode 194 - The Epicurean Arguments In Cicero's On Ends - Book One - Part 04

Post by “Don” of October 3, 2023 at 11:37 AM

You raise some valid points, Cassius; but...(you knew that was coming 😊 )

I agree that \*leading\* with the Tetrpharmakos or discussion of kinetic/katastematic categories for the general reader is not the best route. I also agree that those are what get played up by many popular resources (read: Wikipedia, Reddit, etc) as well as academic discussions. They appear many times to also be interpreted through a Stoic/Platonic/Buddhist lens which colors the discussion as well out there in the world.

Problematic? Without a doubt.

That said...

The Tetrpharmakos is an authentic memory aide used by ancient Epicureans and documented by a classical Epicurean scholar . That's rare and I'm never going to advocate getting rid of it or burying it because some people misunderstand or misuse it. I've used it myself when I'm sick to remind me pain is fleeting. I also get frustrated by bad translations of it too. Whether Philodemus was approving of it or not is also up for debate, but there's no doubt Epicureans were using it. Having that connection to the ancient school is priceless as far as I'm concerned.

As for kinetic/katastematic pleasure, that's a way of thinking about the breadth of pleasure available to us as necessary and natural help us think about desires available to us. Is k/k discussion good for beginners? No, not necessarily. Is it a favorite academic rabbit hole. Absolutely, because you can read all kinds of things into it and open it up for various (incorrect, in my mind) interpretations. I still think it's a valuable distinction for many reasons, but it needs to be in context, which is often missing.