

If Death Is Nothing To Us, Then Life Is Everything to Us

Post by “Cassius” of October 7, 2023 at 12:59 AM

We need a translation of that Maeceanas text! Unfortunately only the latin is here:

[Two Kinds of Crux, neither of them Christian \(Maecenas, Fr. 4.4\) | Curculio - Michael Hendry](#)

Here's the Perseus Latin, but i never can easily find how to flip to the English (or whether it exists at Perseus);

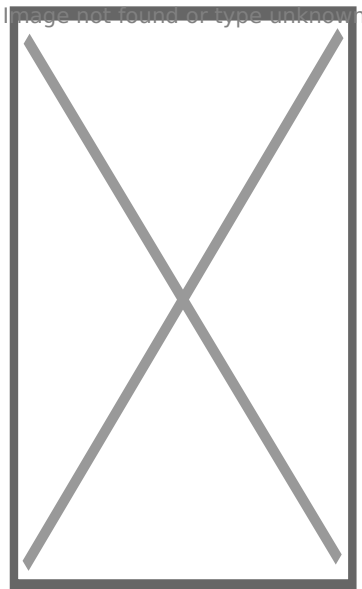
[Seneca, Ad Lucilium Epistulae Morales, Seneca Lucilio suo salutem](#)

Finally!

steals along in its place, and the fear of death, a curse which lays a curse upon everything else. Thence came that most debased of prayers, in which Maecenas^a does not refuse to suffer weakness, deformity, and as a climax the pain of crucifixion—provided only that he may prolong the breath of life amid these sufferings: ^b

Fashion me with a palsied hand,
Weak of foot, and a cripple ;
Build upon me a crook-backed hump ;
Shake my teeth till they rattle ;
All is well, if my life remains.
Save, oh, save it, I pray you,
Though I sit on the piercing cross !

There he is, praying for that which, if it had befallen him, would be the most pitiable thing in the world ! And seeking a postponement of suffering, as if he were asking for life ! I should deem him most despicable had he wished to live up to the very time of crucifixion : “ Nay,” he cries, “ you may weaken my body if you will only leave the breath of life in my battered and ineffective carcase ! ” “ Maim me if you will, but allow me, misshapen and deformed as I may be, just a little more time in the world ! You may nail me up and set my seat upon the piercing cross ! ” Is it worth while to weigh down upon one’s own wound, and hang impaled upon a gibbet, that one may but postpone something which is the balm of troubles, the end of punishment ? Is it worth all this to possess the breath of life only to give it up ? What would you ask for Maecenas but the indulgence of Heaven ? What does he mean by



[Ad Lucilium epistulae morales : Seneca, Lucius Annaeus, ca. 4 B.C.-65 A.D : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

Includes bibliographical references (v. 1, p. xiv-xv) and indexes
archive.org