

Is gratitude a katastematic or kinetic pleasure?

Post by “Don” of October 26, 2023 at 3:55 PM

I'm so conditioned to just say "kinetic pleasure" that I wanted to once again, for my own peace of mind (pun intended), to look again at what Epicurus is quoted as saying in DL 10.136:

ὁ δ' Ἐπίκουρος ἐν τῷ Περὶ αἰρέσεων οὕτω λέγει: "ἡ μὲν γὰρ ἀταραξία καὶ ἀπονία καταστηματικά ἐῖσιν ἡδοναί: ἡ δὲ χαρὰ καὶ ἡ εὐφροσύνη κατὰ κίνησιν ἐνεργεία βλέπονται."

That last line:

ἡ δὲ χαρὰ καὶ ἡ εὐφροσύνη κατὰ κίνησιν ἐνεργεία βλέπονται

has some interesting constructions.

κατὰ κίνησιν (accusative)

along/through/in motion, as opposed to "rest" (στάσις; related to katastematic)

ἐνεργεία (dative) by means of activity/action (opposite of dynamie)

There's a lot of to-do in philosophical discourse of the time about energeia vs dynamie that is beyond me for now. It seems to do with actual action vs potential power/strength?

In any case, just saying "kinetic vs katastematic" masks a whole lot of stuff going on under the surface.