

# Episode 215 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 22 - The Epicurean View Of Happiness

Post by “Joshua” of February 17, 2024 at 9:12 PM

Lucretius, Book III

“Why is your distress so great, you mortal,  
that you indulge in sorrowful laments  
to such excess? Why do you moan and weep  
at death? For if the life you had before,  
which is now over, was pleasing to you,  
and all its good things have not leaked away, 1300  
as if stored in containers full of holes,  
and disappeared without delighting you,  
why do you not take your leave like a guest  
well satisfied with life, you foolish man,  
and with your mind at ease accept a rest  
which will not be disturbed? But if all things  
which you enjoyed have been frittered away [940]  
and come to nothing and life offends you,  
why seek to add on more which, once again,  
may all be squandered foolishly and leave 1310  
without providing pleasure? Instead of that,  
why do you not end your life and troubles?  
For if I can discover or invent  
nothing more to please you, then everything  
always is the same. And if your body  
is not yet shrivelled up with years, your limbs  
not yet worn out and torpid, still all things  
will stay the same, even if you keep going  
and outlast all living races, or even more,  
if you should never die.”