

Episode 219 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 26 - Cicero Continues His Attack On Epicurus' Position On Pain

Post by "Cassius" of March 16, 2024 at 1:41 PM

We will be continuing in this episode 219 with Cicero's criticisms of Epicurus' views of pain. This is a very challenging topic, so if anyone has any thoughts we should consider prior to the recording, please add them here.

Cicero's first criticism revolves this that is recorded from Diogenes Laertius:

[118] And even if the wise man be put on the rack, he is happy. Only the wise man will show gratitude, and will constantly speak well of his friends alike in their presence and their absence. Yet when he is on the rack, then he will cry out and lament.

Seemingly, exactly to the contrary, Cicero says: "There are certain maxims, and I might almost say enactments, concerning courage, which prohibit a man from being womanish in the midst of pain. So we must think it disgraceful, I do not say to feel pain (for that certainly is occasionally inevitable) but to make that old rock of Lemnus ghostly with the roarings of a Philoctetes, *which, by echoing back the shriekings, cryings, groanings, sighings, dumb though it be, returns the sounds of lamentation.*

It is really interesting how Cicero's criticisms track points that are also included by Diogenes Laertius some hundreds of years after Cicero's time, almost as if they were going by exactly the same sources of material despite the difference in time when they were writing.

The full text of Cicero's criticism is in the first post of this thread:

Post

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Cassius

March 10, 2024 at 2:30 PM

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