

Episode 220 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 27 - Cicero Attacks Epicurus' End-Of-Life Decisionmaking

Post by "Cassius" of March 30, 2024 at 12:21 PM

I'd like to call attention to this question that we discussed at the end of podcast 220, because we will also pick it up again to begin episode 221, and anyone who has any comment on this is welcome to add to the discussion:

Is it a contradiction in Epicurean Philosophy for Epicurus to consider that Pain is the Greatest Evil, and yet to also hold that the Happy Man will sometimes experience pain?

Here is the Reid translation from Section XXXII:

"XXXII. But to return to our theme (for we were speaking about pain when we drifted into the consideration of this letter) we may now thus sum up the whole matter: he who is subject to the greatest possible evil is not happy so long as he remains subject to it, whereas the wise man always is happy, though he is at times subject to pain; pain therefore is not the greatest possible evil."