

Choice & Avoidance: towards a better translation for avoidance

Post by “Cassius” of August 17, 2024 at 4:11 AM

I am saying that ("fleeing" is not a normally something an Epicurus would do) mainly in the context of coming up with words that are generally useful.

To me, "flee" is something you do when Mt. Vesuvius erupts, and there is absolutely nothing you can do about a horrible danger. But even then, if you are Pliny the Elder, then you run toward the danger - and this is not the Stoic "duty" some will accuse it of being - because you could not live with yourself if you did not make an effort to save your friends, or even (though this is less likely) you want to satisfy your curiosity. It seems to me that for an Epicurean in the normal world, 'fleeing' is something you will rarely have to consider, along the lines of luck rarely intruding on the life of the wise man." "Choosing" and "Avoiding," or similar action words of normal life, seem to me to be the more useful terms that characterize what even the wisest man will generally be doing.