

Cicero's Stoic Paradoxes - General

Post by "Cassius" of November 19, 2024 at 11:50 AM

From the Rackham edition intro - this is interesting - I have read the slashing and burning attack on Stoicism in the latter parts of On Ends - so what explains the discrepancy, and what was Cicero's true opinion?

Quote

This book consists of six short essays setting out the most striking ethical doctrines of the Stoic school of philosophy : that virtue is the sole good, and the sole requisite for happiness; that all good deeds are equally meritorious and all bad deeds equally heinous; that folly is insanity and slavery, wisdom the only freedom and the only riches. In other writings Cicero criticizes these doctrines as extravagant and pedantic — see especially *De Finibus* iv. 74-77 and *Pro Murena* 60-66 ; but in his preface here, § 4, he expresses his warm acceptance of them.