

A Pattern I Observe In The Connection (Or Lack Thereof) Between Humanism And Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Cassius" of May 31, 2019 at 8:32 AM

Can anyone imagine Diogenes of Oinoanda writing:

"I say both now and always, shouting loudly to all Greeks and non-Greeks, that ABSENCE OF PAIN is the end of the best mode of life, while the virtues....."

Instead of what he actually wrote:

I shall discuss folly shortly, the virtues and pleasure now.

If, gentlemen, the point at issue between these people and us involved inquiry into "what is the means of happiness?" and they wanted to say "the virtues" (which would actually be true), it would be unnecessary to take any other step than to agree with them about this, without more ado. But since, as I say, the issue is not "what is the means of happiness?" but "what is happiness and what is the ultimate goal of our nature?", **I say both now and always, shouting out loudly to all Greeks and non-Greeks, that pleasure is the end of the best mode of life,** while the virtues, which are inopportunately messed about by these people (being transferred from the place of the means to that of the end), are in no way an end, but the means to the end.

Let us therefore now state that this is true, making it our starting-point.

Perhaps it is imaginable, but if so only because our understanding of Epicurus is so corrupted.