

Episode 271 - TD01 - Understanding Epicurus Through Tusculan Disputations

Post by “Cassius” of March 10, 2025 at 8:42 PM

Here is a Greg Sadler / Stoic view of Tusculan Disputations. This of course is from a Stoic point of view but it does a good job of explaining the significance of what is in the book. I see that Sadler is particularly focused on the latter parts of the book on virtue, but I think the former parts on death and pain will interest us as Epicureans even more. I have reviewed the first book today and it's very interesting how the topics Cicero deals with, in attempting to prove the immortality of the soul, are so similar to what Lucretius deals with in his poem and Epicurus deals with in Herodotus and Menoecus.

I think we'll get a lot out of going through this book closely. Other than Diogenes of Oinoanda and Plutarch, this might be the last major philosophic work that took Epicurus seriously (even in opposition to him) and so it puts Epicurean philosophy squarely in the spotlight of the most advanced philosophic thinking of the ancient world before things deteriorated.

<https://youtu.be/xvd3sjxQ3Ak>