

Episode 271 - TD01 - Understanding Epicurus Through Tusculan Disputations

Post by "Cassius" of March 12, 2025 at 6:48 AM

Editing this first episode is taking a little longer than normal as i think about what this book is all about and how to break it down.

Each of the five parts is divided between an opening discussion that has some interesting information but which is unrelated to the topic, followed by a specific topic.

It's probably going to make sense after this general introductory episode to focus on the main topic of each section, and then come back at the end and mop up the interesting but random details in the introductions.

With that as the organizing theory, the topics that will be addressed can be seen to be major issues of relevance to Epicurus as to all schools:

- ** Is Death An Evil?
- ** Is Pain An Evil?
- ** Does the Wise Man Experience Grief and Fear?
- ** Does the Wise Man Experience Joy and Desire?
- ** Is Virtue Sufficient For A Happy Life?

Cicero presents the Epicurean view on all of these after setting up the question, and he contrasts the view of each school on these topics. These amount to the kind of "practical question" that many of us here want to focus on, so i think it will make sense for us to read Cicero's presentation word for word, like we did in Lucretius, so we'll probably go back to what we were doing in On Ends and On the Nature of the Gods and organize each week according to a specific section of text.

That means that unless something happens during editing and I find that we'll be backtracking too much, we'll start the next episode in Part I, section V:

- A. To me death seems to be an evil.
- M. What to those who are already dead? or to those who must die?
- A. To both.
- M. It is a misery then, because an evil?
- A. Certainly.

M. Then those who have already died, and those who have still got to die, are both miserable?

A. So it appears to me.

M. Then all are miserable?

A. Every one.