

Sunday June 2nd, Zoom Discussion: "Is Pain Properly Considered To Be An Evil?"

Post by "Titus" of June 1, 2025 at 11:58 PM

Some thoughts on today's/yesterday's talk:

1. Good and evil have all but vanished from my vocabulary. I don't know whether it's something related to simply getting older or a societal shift or indeed related to the study of Epicureanism.

For the following lines I apologize in advance, if I haven't grasped the discussion correctly.

2. There is a Epicurean "response" to Cicero's claim that a bad reputation may be worse than feeling pain. Unfortunately, I don't remember where it is from. In English it's something like:

"Recognition of the environment must come naturally. We are drawn to strive for our own healing alone."

3. Does Cicero think so, because from a theoretical Stoic point of view he is able to ignore bodily pain but his public standing is beyond his means? In contrast, I would state that bodily pain is by far more present than being afraid of social infamy. The Epicurean response might be focusing on the essentials of life first, as they are related to ourselves innately. Infamy can be treated by refocussing on one's circle of friends, ignoring the public standing (as long as it isn't threatening existentially).

Surely, in the end it depends on what is the biggest hardship to oneself.