

Epigram on the Twentieth

Post by “Kalosyni” of June 19, 2025 at 1:08 PM

This is the translation at [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#):

Quote

Tomorrow, dearest Piso, your cultured companion drags you
To his humble shack at three o'clock
To feed you your annual dinner on the Twentieth. If you'll miss
Sow's udders and Bromius' Chian wine,
Still you'll see your faithful companions and hear
Things far more sweet than the Phaeacians' land.
And if you ever turn your gaze on us too, Piso,
We'll have a richer Twentieth, instead of a humble one.

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But did they take poetic license with the phrase "your cultured companion"? (I prefer Paton's translation, as in post one above).

When he says "hear things far more sweet than the Phaeacians' land... possibly he was referring to Lucretius De Rerum Natura ...(especially the opening which speaks of Venus and Nature)...just a thought.

I am thinking now about the possibility that there was a custom for Epicureans to speak about pleasure and pleasurable things at their symposium/feasts...just another idea to ponder.

Link to the ancient Greek text:

[Greek Anthology, Volume IV, book 11, chapter 44](#)