

Horace - Buying Pleasure With Pain is Harmful (????)

Post by "Don" of August 22, 2025 at 10:15 AM

Are you trusting an AI summary in your search?? 🤔 😊

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Here's the first search results:

Ya gotta assess the individual search result links.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

this phrase is derived from his writings, specifically from his "Epistles" (Book I, Epistle II, line 55).

The line is from the Letters, but that Perseus link doesn't go to Horace's Letters.

Okay, now we're getting somewhere:

[The Project Gutenberg eBook of THE WORKS OF HORACE, by C. Smart, A.M..](#)

Here's the context:

Quote

Money is sought, and a wife fruitful in bearing children, and wild woodlands are reclaimed by the plow. [To what end all this?] He, that has got a competency, let him wish for no more. Not a house and farm, nor a heap of brass and gold, can remove fevers from the body of their sick master, or cares from his mind. The possessor must be well, if he thinks of enjoying the things which he has accumulated. To him that is a slave to desire or to fear, house and estate do just as much good as paintings to a sore-eyed person, fomentations to the gout, music to ears afflicted with collected matter. Unless the vessel be sweet, whatever you pour into it turns sour. **Despise pleasures, pleasure bought with pain is hurtful.** The covetous man is ever in want; set a certain limit to your wishes. The envious person wastes at the thriving condition of another: Sicilian tyrants never invented a greater torment than envy. He who will not curb his passion, will wish that undone which his grief and resentment suggested, while he violently plies his revenge with unsated rancor. Rage is a short madness. Rule your passion, which commands, if it do not obey; do you restrain it with a bridle, and with fetters. The groom forms the docile horse, while his neck is yet tender, to go the way

which his rider directs him: the young hound, from the time that he barked at the deer's skin in the hall, campaigns it in the woods. Now, while you are young, with an untainted mind imbibe instruction: now apply yourself to the best [masters of morality]. A cask will long preserve the flavor, with which when new it was once impregnated. But if you lag behind, or vigorously push on before, I neither wait for the loiterer, nor strive to overtake those that precede me.

Here's the Latin from Wikisource: [https://la.wikisource.org/wiki/Epistulae...ius\)/Liber_I/II](https://la.wikisource.org/wiki/Epistulae...ius)/Liber_I/II)

Oh, and it's *Sperne* voluptates; nocet empta dolore voluptas, and not *speme*?