

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

Post by "Don" of August 22, 2025 at 11:00 AM

Maybe some temporal context might help?

This line from the letter in question (1.2.55) was written (per Wikipedia for now) :

Quote

Epistularum liber primus (First Book of Letters) is the seventh work by Horace, published in the year 20 BC. This book consists of 20 Epistles.

Horace's famous "Epicuri de grege porcum" appears in an epistle to Albius Tibullus (1.4.12-16) written around the same time (apparently) as the letter in question, in fact it's only two letters later in Book 1.

I don't have time right now, but it might be instructive to read the first few letters in Book 1:

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

to see what Epicurean themes - if any - jump out and whether Horace is providing his own take on the philosophy (whether or not he's a pig in the herd) or not.