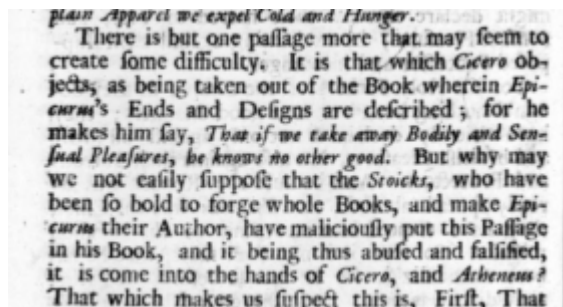


Gassendi On Happiness

Post by "Cassius" of November 13, 2025 at 7:15 AM

Here's the detail on what was mentioned in post 7 above. On page 56 Bernier/Gassendi is alleging (incorrectly in my view) that Epicurus did not make the statement that he would not know what good is but for the pleasures of sensation. Rather, he's alleging that this is a fraudulent statement inserted by Stoics. I'd say this is a gross error, and comes from failing to address Epicurean Canonics/Physics (probably due to the blinders of religion). Having not paid attention to that, Bernier/Gassendi fail to see that this statement is focused on the feelings/anticipations/senses as the Canonical test of knowledge, rather than a statement on practical ethics. He goes on at some length about this and it's a major problem - I'm just marking it here so we know where to find it starting on pdf page 56.



plain Apparel we expel Cold and Hunger. There is but one passage more that may seem to create some difficulty. It is that which Cicero objects, as being taken out of the Book wherein Epicurus's Ends and Designs are described; for he makes him say, That if we take away Bodily and Sensual Pleasures, he knows no other good. But why may we not easily suppose that the Stoicks, who have been so bold to forge whole Books, and make Epicurus their Author, have maliciously put this Passage in his Book, and it being thus abused and falsified, it is come into the hands of Cicero, and Athenens? That which makes us suspect this is. First, That