

# Happy Twentieth of December 2025!

Post by “Joshua” of December 20, 2025 at 8:31 PM

Here is that passage from [Lorenzo Valla's \*De Voluntate\*](#):

[6] According to my Epicurus, however, nothing remains after the dissolution of the **living being**, and in the term **“living being”** he included man just as much as he did the lion, the wolf, the dog, and all other things that breathe. With all this I agree. They eat, we eat; they drink, we drink; they sleep, and so do we. They engender, possess some part of reason and memory, some more than others, and we a little more than they. We are like them in almost everything: finally, they die and we die—both of us completely. But we shall have knowledge of this—or rather we shall have no knowledge—when we have departed from this life. As for now, however, let us serve what we know and what is the only good in life, pleasure. [7] If they offered us the Elysian Fields, I should consider it most foolish to give up certain goods for uncertain ones, particularly when both goods are of the same kind. And since they acknowledge that there are no corporeal goods among the dead, why should we listen to them when they deny us the pleasures of the body, and especially when, if we may believe the poets, bodily pleasure here below forms a kind of step to those Elysian pleasures? Therefore, for as long as possible (would that it were longer!), let us not allow those bodily pleasures to slip away that cannot be doubted and cannot be recovered in another life. As much as we can (and we can do much), let us most generously gratify our eyes, ears, palates, nostrils, hands, feet, and other parts, which I hope you will do even without my encouragement.