

Episode 317 - TD43 - The Epicurean "System Of Counterbalancing" In Pursuit Of Pleasure

Post by "Cassius" of January 21, 2026 at 4:32 PM

I'm taking the title of today's episode from the fact that both Yonge and King translate "system of counterbalancing" as the best English version of the Latin in section 33:

Totumque hoc de voluptate sic ille praecipit, ut voluptatem ipsam per se, quia voluptas sit, semper optandam expetendamque putet, eademque ratione dolorem ob id ipsum, quia dolor sit, semper esse fugiendum ; itaque hac usurum compensatione sapientem, ut et voluptatem fugiat, si ea maiorem dolorem effectura sit, et dolorem suscipiat maiorem efficientem voluptatem, omniaque iucunda, quamquam sensu corporis iudicentur, ad animum referri tam en;

person merely because it is pleasure; and for the same reason pain is to be avoided, because it is pain. So that a wise man will always employ such a system of counterbalancing as to do himself the justice to avoid pleasure should pain prove that it is too great a proportion; and will submit to pain, provided the effects of it are to produce a greater plea-

sure than he can secure otherwise pain is always to be avoided for the simple reason that it is pain, and so the wise man will employ a system of counterbalancing which enables him both to avoid pleasure, should it be likely to ensure greater pain, and submit to pain where it ensures greater pleasure; and