

Nature and Pleasure and Pain

Post by “Elayne” of August 21, 2019 at 3:04 PM

Catching up here-- and I see that part of my post today on FB is relevant and echoes what others have said:

"VS 56 The wise man feels no more pain when being tortured himself than when his friend tortured.

VS 57 On occasion a man will die for his friend, for if he betrays his friend, his whole life will be confounded by distrust and completely upset. (both of these translations I got from epicureanfriends.com and there is a note that these have been reconstructed).

These last two quotes are very important, IMO. We are not being advised to feel pain or to die for friends as if to be virtuous-- these are descriptive quotes. They are observations of what true friendship feels like-- that we are so connected to our friends that their pleasures and pains cause us pleasures and pains. Although friendship must be mutual to be real, the feelings themselves are not contractual. There is not a cold calculation that we use, nor logic, minus feelings, when it comes to our friends, because we love them with all our hearts."