

The Wise Man Will Marry and Have Children ... According To The Circumstances of His Life

Post by “Joshua” of October 28, 2019 at 10:05 PM

Well my own leaning here, Cassius, is that the negative formulation (“will not marry [...] unless [...]”) is more close tonally to what Epicurus probably did mean. Whether this applies to a ‘sage’ or to everyone is to me the more difficult question. It’s true that Metrodorus married; but it’s also true that neither Hermarchus nor Epicurus himself are known to have done so.

I’m on the outside looking in with this question, but it seems to me that child-rearing in particular may be a profound pleasure—but it can also be a doorway to the deepest and blackest grief imaginable. Well, it would be unpleasant to dwell on such a point...

If I were scanning my own heart, and found there love and a desire to marry, I would wade with all my senses into the restless erotic energy of the *Hymn to Venus*, and hear from far centuries the echo of my own trembling soul. *Cor Cordium*; heart of hearts—what could even the very wisest have to tell me about that? And if I stop to wait for that counsel—am I even worthy?

*Upon her breast repose came dropping sweet—
Her heart's rumor, her breath in swelling waves—
Ah! And her eyes—brown, deeper than the peat
That numbs my tongue¹, and lies on poets' graves.*

¹(...yes. I used to drink Scotch and write bad love-poetry 😊)