

# Discussion of the Society of Epicurus' 20 Tenets of 12/21/19

Post by "Elli" of December 28, 2019 at 11:31 AM

## Walls

With no consideration, no pity, no shame,  
they have built walls around me, thick and high.  
And now I sit here feeling hopeless.  
I can't think of anything else: this fate gnaws my mind -  
because I had so much to do outside.  
When they were building the walls, how could I not have noticed!  
But I never heard the builders, not a sound.  
Imperceptibly they have closed me off from the outside world.

## The Windows

In these dark rooms where I live out empty days,  
I wander round and round  
trying to find the windows.  
It will be a great relief when a window opens.  
But the windows aren't there to be found -  
or at least I can't find them. And perhaps  
it's better if I don't find them.  
Perhaps the light will prove another tyranny.  
Who knows what new things it will expose?

The above are two of the top poems by C.P. Cavafy about the trapping that characterizes many people's lives and of course his own. A life of loneliness and sadness, with the feeling of being unsatisfied with the poet's wanderlust, who seeks diligently the reasons that led him to this point. The poem "The windows" symbolize the reasons sought by the poet for the state of his

life. While his poem "Walls" are being built by others, we see that "windows" are combined with the concept of light and what the poet wants is to illuminate the dark spots of his life so that he can understand how he came living his life with many restrictions and oppressions. How he lost control of his life over the years and ended up spending his days in the dark - in ignorance - and in solitude.

This wondering of the poet expresses the concerns of many people who have gradually found themselves far from their original goals and the pursuit of happiness i.e. **the pure pleasure as we, the epicureans, are saying**. A web of habits and obligations, the attempt of man to live as others require for him without him, and a society that traps its members in a prescribed course, often alienate to the human removing from him whatever he wishes for his life.

As in the poem "The Walls" Cavafy raises the question of the restrictions that have been put on his life and states that he never understood when and who trapped him inside them, in the poem "The Windows" Cavafy appears to ignore the reasons why his life has come to be so limited and depressing. And despite his efforts to find the "windows", he fails to appear as if they were not even there or as if he were unable to locate them. The truth is, after all, that in order to be able to identify the reasons why he does not have the life he desires, he must seek responsibility not only in others and in society, as he says in the first poem entitled "Walls", but also to himself, which is not always easy.

That is why the poet thinks it may be better that he cannot find the windows - which are the causes that has to search and deepening in them - because, as he says, he may then be confronted with issues that he would rather not to know or has not to realize. Perhaps, the poet says : to find windows, to be finally a new state **of the feeling of pain, and the truth that he wants so much to find**, to be the cause of a crucial battle with himself, and this may, instead of rescuing him, **it will bring him a greater agitation**.

The poet's hard days are a result of not only the restrictions the society places on him, but also the restrictions he places on himself. The responsibility for the grief of the poet - and every human being like the psychosomatic of the poet - lies not only on others but also on himself. And this is our subjective truth that we are not always ready to handle, which is why the poet concludes that it may be better not to find the windows.... And that's why the majority of people **choose the STOIC anesthesia and apathy that is given with that known : <<pleasure is the absence of pain>> !**