

Vaughn (Lewis) - "Living Philosophy"

Post by "Charles" of January 13, 2020 at 3:24 PM

[Cassius](#) here are the proper sources

More sensual claim: Cicero's [De Rerum Deorum](#), Chapter 40, paragraph 113, 2nd to last line prior to Chapter 41

"As for Metrodorus, Epicurus's co-partner in philosophy, he supplied him with many still more outspoken quotations; in fact Metrodorus takes his brother Timocrates to task for hesitating to measure every element of happiness by the standard of the belly, nor is this an isolated utterance, but he repeats it several times. I see you nod your assent, as you are acquainted with the passages; and did you deny it, I would produce the volumes. Not that I am at the moment criticizing your making pleasure the sole standard of value — that belongs to another inquiry."

Poverty claim: Philodemus, On Property Management, XXV 3. Philodemus' Approach to Property Management and the Debate between the Epicureans and the Cynics.

I don't have the actual pdf of Philodemus, or rather one that is unrestricted. But here's the citation.

"The debate between Metrodorus and the Cynics focuses on the issue whether wealth has any value and, if it does, of what kind. While the Cynics are staunch advocates of *πεινιά* or *πτωχεια*, "poverty or pensury [sic]," denying that wealth has any value at all, Metrodorus treats it as an instrumental good whose practical value is determined by its good or base use. His position is closer to Zeno's position than one might expect: like Zeno and other Stoics, Metrodorus views (natural) wealth as a preferred indifferent of some sort. Philodemus highlights that aspect when he suggests that, on the one hand, the wise man will be hopeful and content with a frugal life, but, on the other hand, "he feels more inclined, prompted by his will, toward a more affluent way of living" (XVI.4-6) Woolf (2009) argues that this was Epicurus's position as well"

Maybe I can look into Raphael Woolf, to find that argument and see if it points to any other sources.

Edit: The Woolf Section cited is from "The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism", Chapter 9 which was written by Woolf titled "Pleasure and Desire" (Which right away opens with "pleasure is the absence of pain").

Fragments of Metrodorus' books were found at Herculaneum, likely that Philodemus was versed or had access to them.