

# The Neglect of Metrodorus' Economics

Post by "Godfrey" of February 14, 2020 at 3:01 PM

To follow up on Elayne's post, what is "natural" for a wealthy Roman is far different than what is "natural" for a bushman. So is there a "necessary" or a "cultural" measure of wealth? Metrodorus and Philodemus were operating in specific cultural contexts and it seems that they were describing what was "natural" to those contexts. In trying to get to the essence of their ideas, you need to find a description that is relative, in that it can be applied in any context. Or maybe define your context. I think you're correct in linking whatever it is to natural and necessary desires.

But this is only the first principle. Some comments on the others....

3) Personally, I don't consider toil to be evil and your statement is pretty absolute. Toil is of course beneath a wealthy Roman, but a fact of life for many people. If toil implies mental bondage then that can be addressed, otherwise I think that it can be a pain endured for greater future pleasure.

6) and 7) While these may be true, I don't think I'd make them principles but put them lower in the hierarchy. Maybe have a discussion about revenue in principle 5 and list them there as possibilities.

2) and 4) seem good as they are written.