

The Neglect of Metrodorus' Economics

Post by "Elayne" of February 14, 2020 at 3:06 PM

☐ Hiram. None of us has any duty to agree with everything a philosopher says, no matter who they are. If Epicurus had said something I found inconsistent with reality, I would tell him so, if he were alive today. I did not put words in anyone's mouth-- I spoke for myself.

I do not consider saying someone would be wrong or that an idea is silly to be an attack on someone. I have myself said wrong or silly things-- this doesn't happen to be one of those times. Metrodorus isn't here, so he can't be insulted. But I have my doubts that he would have framed things as you are doing. That's why I said "if he said it." It should have been obvious that I don't think he would have agreed you've understood his economics.

If all that is meant by "natural wealth" is "the amount of wealth that will facilitate your pleasure in your specific circumstances"-- which includes the reality of your culture and personal tastes-- then that's fine, but it's not how people today are using the word "natural", and it adds zero information to just using pleasure. Your repeated insistence on focusing on other measures of how to live than pleasure is a problem. It indicates to me that there's something about pleasure that bothers you.

One cannot measure "natural" but one can easily and immediately know whether one is having pleasure or not.