

The Neglect of Metrodorus' Economics

Post by "Cassius" of February 16, 2020 at 3:22 AM

[Quote from Hiram](#)

If what bothers you about the "natural measure of wealth" is that it's a minimalist doctrine, then I would challenge you to interpret it non-minimally. I would not say "discard it", because there are two main issues:

No, it doesn't bother me that "natural measure of wealth" is a phrase that is necessarily minimalist, because it can be interpreted as "right-sizing" wealth to produce the greatest pleasure. What bothers me is that you seem to be interpreting it and preaching it as minimalist, when (1) it is not, and (2) minimalism is clearly non-Epicurean.

[Quote from Hiram](#)

If I find a commentator like Yona who uses virtue as a referent, then I'll switch the referent to pleasure, but I won't dismiss the entire discussion for that reason, or the sources, or the moral questions being addressed which may be legitimate.

Well good luck on that, because in Yona using "virtue as a referent" she is preaching virtue as the goal, so by accepting her premises as "legitimate" you are undermining the Epicurean view, which is the opposite of

[Quote from Hiram](#)

And so it seems to me that the natural measure of wealth is meant to rectify both errors, and that we should be critical of both, not only of the minimalist one.

Yes I agree let's be critical of both minimalism and money/capitalism/whatever word fits here. But the problem that requires me to make these comments is that I don't see anyone here advocating maximization of money, or else I would call them out just as I am calling out minimalism, which is what your phrasing ends up advocating.

As for the beneficial results of these discussions I agree they are definitely beneficial, because we are building a record where we can point others in the future who will then not have to start at the same point as we did in attempting to explore these issues.