

# The Neglect of Metrodorus' Economics

Post by "Elli" of February 19, 2020 at 2:46 AM

ES 77. The greatest fruit of self-sufficiency is **freedom**.

Because : «τὸ εὐδαίμον τὸ ἐλεύθερον, τὸ δ' ἐλεύθερον τὸ εὐψυχον κρίναντες». We are **judging** that **bliss** means **freedom**; and **freedom** means **bravery** and they are surely to be esteemed the bravest spirits who, having the **clearest sense both** of the **pains** and **pleasures** of life, do not on that account shrink from danger ...

...And we have invented for ourselves many relaxations from toil; we have regular games and sacrifices throughout the year; our homes are **beautiful** and **elegant**; and the **pleasure** which we **daily feel** in all these things helps to **banish sorrow**. Because of the greatness of our city the fruits of the whole earth flow in upon us; so that we **enjoy** the **goods** of other countries as **freely** as our own. (Pericle's Epitaph, by Thucydides).

**And for this cause we call pleasure the beginning and end of the blessed life. For we recognize pleasure as the first good innate in us, and from pleasure we begin every act of choice and avoidance, and to pleasure we return again, using the feeling as the standard by which we judge every good.**

**Sailings on the seas,**

**Tilling of fields, walls, laws, and arms, and roads,**

**Dress and the like, all prizes, all delights**

**Of finer life, poems, pictures, chiseled shapes**

**Of polished sculptures—all these arts were learned**

**By practice and the mind's experience,**

**As men walked forward step by eager step.**

**Thus time draws forward each and everything**

**Little by little into the midst of men,**

**And reason uplifts it to the shores of light.**

**For one thing after other did men see**

**Grow clear by intellect, till with their arts  
They've now achieved the supreme pinnacle.**

**(DRN- Lucretius book V)**