

"Choice" and "Avoidance"

Post by "Cassius" of February 28, 2020 at 6:09 PM

I think Thomas Jefferson would agree with you too, based on this excerpt from the letter to William Short. He may be contrasting fortitude with fleeing here, but I think more than that he is contrasting lack of energy vs energy in whatever we choose to do

Quote

I take the liberty of observing that you are not a true disciple of our master Epicurus, in indulging the indolence to which you say you are yielding. One of his canons, you know, was that "that indulgence which prevents a greater pleasure, or produces a greater pain, is to be avoided." Your love of repose will lead, in its progress, to a suspension of healthy exercise, a relaxation of mind, an indifference to everything around you, and finally to a debility of body, and hebetude of mind, **the farthest of all things from the happiness which the well-regulated indulgences of Epicurus ensure;** fortitude, you know is one of his four cardinal virtues. That teaches us to meet and surmount difficulties; not to fly from them, like cowards; and to fly, too, in vain, for they will meet and arrest us at every turn of our road. Weigh this matter well; brace yourself up; take a seat with Correa, and come and see the finest portion of your country, which, if you have not forgotten, you still do not know,