

# Welcome Eugenios!

Post by “Elli” of February 29, 2020 at 8:40 AM

I think the name Eugenios in english is Eugene. This work "περί ευγενείας" (on the nobility of birth) by Metrodorus has been lost. It is only mentioned by Diogenes Laertius in his book with the biography of Epicurus.

However, if we study very carefully our survival sources we can draw many conclusions of what means to be someone of "noble birth". The first principle and the most important for Epicurus and his philosophy is that is **against herd's/mob's morality** which is usually connected with misery, apathy, and contempt of what is beautiful/well, free and pleased, that is to say, herd's/mob's morality is whatever that leads to the **pain** and the **decadence** of any society.

But Epicurus on the basis of his philosophy declares: since I use the methodology of the Canon that came by Nature, for studying properly the Nature, I' m also capable enough to set the moral values/Ethics and for myself and with those that are like myself that we did agree to set them likewise since **we all have the same goal**.

Because when any moral values have been set by the mobs and their leaders - that are also connected with laws in a society - provoke fears, anger, pain, and contempt for hurting each other, these are against the goal of pleasure as Nature has set for us. So, then, says Epicurus, I have the **autonomy** that is synonym with "**παρέγκλιση**" (**swerve**) to find the right strategy to change and even the image of gods or any established laws if those are hurting the relationships among the people.

And as the brave Pericles in his Epitaph (survived by Thucydides) declares: «**τὸ εὐδαιμον τὸ ἐλεύθερον, τὸ δ' ἐλεύθερον τὸ εὐψυχον κρίναντες**». **i.e. 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.**

An honest philosopher is a free and brave spirit who does not say words that are liked to the ears of mobs or of monarchs/oligarchs and above all, an honest philosopher is not absolutist particularly of what is good and what is bad to become a tyrant himself or having any relationship with tyrants, and oligarchs and those people that are followers of false religions and false philosophies. And when we say false is whatever is against human nature that provokes/produces pain and not pleasure.

An honest philosopher knows how to put and his/her personal limits (among pleasure and pain), as well as, he knows very well where are the limits in a society of the regimes that are called - with political terms - Democracy and Tyranny. IMO both those regimes have to do on the basis of **frankness of speech**. The too much Democracy of a majority that speak about foolish

things that are against Nature and pleasure, it is not Democracy, it's foolishness. And whoever says in a society issues that lead to the benefit and pleasure of the majority of the people, and that person is being censored by the few, it is not Democracy it is Oligarchy and Tyranny and it's foolishness too.

Here is an image with an epigram for Epicurus by Athenians, that is survived by Menander.

[...And when Epicurus, gave his scattered redemptive caress to the wounded souls thus, the ancient Athenians gave a symbolic meaning in the coincidence of his father with the father of the great politician Themistocles. “From this common name “Neocles” they both have been born, and the one saved us from the slavery, the other from foolishness”, says an epigram and is originated by the dramatic Menander, who had the same age and teenage with Epicurus...]

(An excerpt from the book by the professor of philosophy Charalambos Theodoridis entitled : “EPICURUS - The true face of the ancient world”)



