

Discussion of Article "Challenging Ataraxia" by Haris Dimitriadis

Post by "Cassius" of May 15, 2020 at 8:03 PM

Possibly this is a better choice, but after more reflection I think it would be best just to include the full section....

[127-8](#)) Ἀναλογιστέον δὲ ὡς τῶν ἐπιθυμιῶν αἱ μὲν εἰσι φυσικαί, αἱ δὲ κεναί, καὶ τῶν φυσικῶν αἱ μὲν ἀναγκαῖαι, αἱ δὲ φυσικαὶ μόνον· τῶν δὲ ἀναγκαίων αἱ μὲν πρὸς εὐδαιμονίαν εἰσὶν ἀναγκαῖαι, αἱ δὲ πρὸς τὴν τοῦ σώματος ἀοχλησίαν, αἱ δὲ πρὸς αὐτὸ τὸ ζῆν. τούτων γὰρ ἀπλανῆς θεωρία πᾶσαν αἴρεσιν καὶ φυγὴν ἐπανάγειν οἶδεν ἐπὶ τὴν τοῦ σώματος ὑγίειαν καὶ τὴν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀταραξίαν, ἐπεὶ τοῦτο τοῦ μακαρίως ζῆν ἐστὶ τέλος. τούτου γὰρ πάντα πράττομεν, ὅπως μὴτε ἀλγῶμεν μὴτε ταρβῶμεν. ὅταν δὲ ἅπαξ τοῦτο περὶ ἡμᾶς γένηται, λύεται πᾶς ὁ τῆς ψυχῆς χειμῶν, οὐκ ἔχοντος τοῦ ζῶου βαδίζειν ὡς πρὸς ἐνδέον τι καὶ ζητεῖν ἕτερον ὧ τὸ τῆς ψυχῆς καὶ τοῦ σώματος ἀγαθὸν συμπληρῶσεται. τότε γὰρ ἡδονῆς χρεῖαν ἔχομεν, ὅταν ἐκ τοῦ μὴ παρεῖναι τὴν ἡδονὴν ἀλγῶμεν· <ὅταν δὲ μὴ ἀλγῶμεν> οὐκέτι τῆς ἡδονῆς δεόμεθα.

[127-8](#)) One should keep in mind that among [desires](#), some are natural and some are vain. Of those that are natural, some are necessary and some unnecessary. Of those that are necessary, some are necessary for [happiness](#), some for [health](#), and some for [life](#) itself. A correct view of these matters enables one to base every choice and avoidance upon whether it secures or upsets bodily comfort and [peace of mind](#) – the goal of a happy life. Everything we do is for the sake of freedom from [pain](#) and [anxiety](#). Once this is achieved, the storms in the [soul](#) are stilled. Nothing else and nothing more are needed to perfect the well-being of the body and soul. It is when we feel pain that we must seek relief, which is [pleasure](#). And when we no longer feel pain, we no longer need pleasure.