

Characteristics of the Wise Man, 1-9 Rough Draft of Outline

Post by “Don” of May 29, 2020 at 4:52 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

But I do think that we still have a lot to do on the clear meaning of terms like "sage" and "fullness of pleasure." So that when Epicurus uses the term in the letter to menoeceus I would strongly presume that he is using it in a generic way and not as a term of art as in the comic book "Epicurus The Sage" for example.

I think I would agree with that if I understand what you're saying.

In the interest of making sure I'm being clear: I do NOT think that the Epicurean sage is akin to a buddha, bodhisattva, messiah, etc. The Epicurean sage is not a type of being, an official title, or an unattainable condition that only serves to make humans feel inadequate. It's more descriptive than anything else, a shorthand. A wise one is simply one who has learned to apply the philosophy in every aspect of their lives, who has internalized the doctrines and can readily pull them up in their mind to confront any situation when trying to make choices on courses of action to reject and accept.

Although now that I'm writing this, I need to be careful in steering clear of elevating the wisdom to make the decisions with the pleasure arising from those decisions. Although again... No, okay... The decision is just the means to the pleasurable end. Just as acting virtuously is a means to achieving pleasure. Okay, I think I pulled myself out of the nose dive. 😊