

LANDOR, Walter Savage: Epicurus, Leontion and Ternissa.

Post by “Kalosyni” of April 18, 2023 at 10:35 AM

I happened to find this just last night and this looks like a page from a book, and it is a collector's item. I've been looking to find out if there are any more "Epicurean conversations" by Landor to be found on the internet. [Joshua](#), maybe you know about this?

LEONTION



OUR SITUATION FOR A GARDEN, EPICURUS, IS, I THINK, VERY BADLY CHOSEN.

EPICURUS

WHY DO YOU THINK SO, MY LEONTION?

LEONTION

FIRST, BECAUSE IT IS MORE THAN TWENTY STADIA FROM THE CITY.

EPICURUS

CERTAINLY THE DISTANCE IS INCONVENIENT, MY CHARMING FRIEND! IT IS RATHER TOO FAR OFF FOR US TO BE SEEN, & RATHER TOO NEAR FOR US TO BE REGRETTED. HERE, HOWEVER, I SHALL BUILD NO VILLA, NOR ANYTHING ELSE, & THE LONGEST TIME WE CAN BE DETAINED, IS FROM THE RISING TO THE SETTING SUN. Now,

([Source](#))

I happened to find this before the newest posting by [Don](#) ([article which talks about pinpointing the exact location of the Garden](#)).

Here is a bit more about the writer and poet Landor...from Wikipedia:

Quote

The Imaginary Conversations were begun when Landor was living in [Florence](#) and were initially published as they were completed between 1824-9, by which time they filled three volumes. The dialogues, not yet divided into categories, were initially given the composite title *Conversations of Literary Men and Statesmen*. With their success Landor continued to write more, as well as to polish and add to those already published. Some appeared first in literary reviews, as for example the conversation between "Southey and Porson" on William Wordsworth's poetry in 1823, predating the first published series of conversations in the following year. Various supplemented editions followed each other until there were five volumes containing nearly 150 conversations.

Post by "Kalosyni" of April 18, 2023 at 10:53 AM

I found a [conversion page](#) for stadia to miles.

20 stadia = just about 2 miles

Now Don has the following in his [paper](#), which looks like the distance was quite a bit less.

Quote

Cicero's walk across Athens, through the Dipylon Gate, and ending at Plato's Academy provides a tantalizing route for a walking tour through the ancient city. According to Cicero's text, he and his friends walked six stades from the Dipylon Gate while talking about various topics (*inde sermone vario sex illa a Dipylo stadia confecimus*), and his companion Pomponius remarks that, upon arriving at the Academy, they had just passed (*quos modo praeteribamus*) Epicurus's Garden.

Post by “Don” of April 18, 2023 at 11:48 AM



That's a pretty layout, but there are SO many things wrong with that imagined conversation!

Post by “Joshua” of April 18, 2023 at 11:59 AM

I just glanced over the thread [here](#) and didn't see it, maybe I haven't come across this before. It's worth noting that this is the same Landor that Frost mentions in his poem "Lucretius versus the Lake Poets".

Quote

‘Nature I loved; and next to Nature, Art.’

Dean , adult education may seem silly.

What of it, though? I got some willy-nilly

The other evening at your college deanery.

And grateful for it (let's not be facetious!)

For I thought Epicurus and Lucretius

By Nature meant the Whole Goddam Machinery.

But you say that in college nomenclature

The only meaning possible for Nature

In Landor's quatrain would be Pretty Scenery.

Which makes opposing it to Art absurd

I grant you—if you're sure about the word.

God bless the Dean and make his deanship plenary.

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Post by “Kalosyni” of April 18, 2023 at 12:00 PM

[Quote from Don](#)




That's a pretty layout, but there are SO many things wrong with that imagined conversation!

Yes! And this is how false ideas get spread, so it is important to set things straight as you have done in your paper (referenced above).

Post by “Joshua” of April 18, 2023 at 12:04 PM

Ternissa might be an Anglicization of a Gallicization of a Latinization of Θεμίστη; Themista, of our recent conversations.

Post by “Joshua” of April 18, 2023 at 12:08 PM



"The members of the Garden included not only full Athenian citizens like Epicurus himself but ... people of all social classes..."

"...women and slaves, who ... enjoyed few legal rights and privileges..."

Looks like [Eikadistes](#) has come across it though.

Post by “Eikadistes” of April 30, 2023 at 10:46 AM

| [Quote from Joshua](#)



Looks like [Eikadistes](#) has come across it though.

It's a great image! (I made it) 😊