

DISPUTATION CXLVII

March 10, 2016

Peucinians,

I eagerly anticipate every disputation, but there's something about this one in particular...

RESOLVED: WE OUGHT TO STRIVE FOR MORE THAN EARTHLY PLEASURES

Affirmative: Lynda Chamblee Shufflebarger '18

Negative: Μένων '16

A king stands atop a pile of gold and riches and looks down at the have-nots, kicking and clawing at the shiniest thing, the bigger prize, and the seat on top. Looking beyond the wretched sight, he wonders: *is there something more? Let's hope not!* We pride ourselves with our earthly lot and make a great fuss about getting it bigger, but to what end?

Certainly, the king is happy. He must be happy, or at least, so long as he desires nothing, he is content. Those who reach to his crown know this, and fuel their climb with dreams of one day finding that good life. And even in their climb, some may stop and think: *this goal is worth pursuing. What I aim towards is all I know - its all we know.*

And what we know is good. Medicine, technology, and social progress have helped move us along, right?

Of course, without faith in the eternal and unseeable, all we can know is what we see - these earthly pleasures, piled before us for the taking. The glory of material wealth, the pride gained from popularity amongst our peers, and the touch of a lover - these things are worth striving for because they bring us closer to that good life - or at least one version of it.

However, as always, there is another version of the good life to consider striving for. What good are all these things that will eventually leave us? The pile of gold will rust, the friends will rot, and the flesh will sag - but the soul is eternal. The soul - or at least something that resembles it - lingers somewhere within us, yearning for something more.

I can already hear the materialists among us turning their ears away, but let them enjoy their miserable lot. What a sad fate if man is nothing more than flesh and bone and the stuffs comprising those smaller bits and pieces. Atomists, are we truly no different from the stars, earth, and dust that surround us? Perhaps then we ought strive for more than earthly pleasures. Or maybe that's a foolish thought for idealists to cling to, unwilling to listen to the hard truths of our times.

Worldly pleasures or not, lets strive toward something - see you tonight.

*7:45 PM Thursday March 10th
Massachusetts Hall Faculty Room (Top Floor)
Semi-Formal Attire*

Sincerely,

Ajax

Pinos Loquentes Semper Habemus