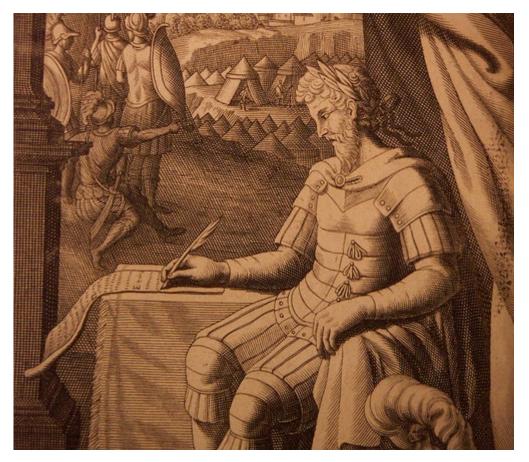
Two Stoics

by <u>Jeffrey Burghauser</u> (November 2018)

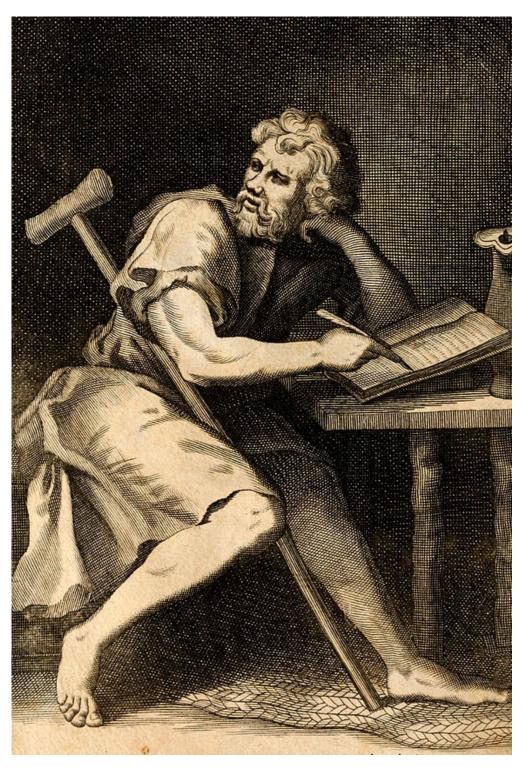


Engraving from a 1704 edition of Meditations, published in Oxford.

[1] Marcus Aurelius

Is our dear Marcus Aurelius A pessimist for maintaining that (Life being a balls-exploding brat) At the day's demise, the only This Upon which a man may hope to get Some restraint is his own silly brain-Or (indeed) an optimist for main-Taining the very same postulate?

Philosophic epigrams may stamp The air's hide: impotent as flowers, Desperate as a note of copyright. There's a grievance in the oil lamp. My madness wakes me at all hours; She's my infant, and can't sleep the night.



Artistic impression of Epictetus.

[2] Epictetus

The stoic Epictetus stated

In one of his philosophic drams
That "...the uneducated man blames
Others; the semi-educated

"Man blames himself; the educated Man blames neither others nor himself." *Him* and *Others* fall into the gulf. Only *Blame* remains un-negated.

What I'm left with disengages sea From her shape, trans- & counter-swerving. What I'm left with is close to Irving Layton's "…the cosmos enrages me."

Which it does. Up ahead, make a right. I need pot roast. And croissants. Goodnight.

Jeffrey Burghauser is an English teacher in Columbus, Ohio. He was educated at SUNY-Buffalo, the University of Leeds, and currently studies the five-string banjo with a focus on pre-WWII picking styles. A former artist-in-residence at the Arad

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