



Between medicine and rhetoric: therapeutic arguments in Roman Stoicism

Krzysztof ŁAPIŃSKI*

ABSTRACT

In this paper, I intend to focus on some rhetorical strategies of argumentation which play crucial role in the therapeutic discourse of Roman Stoicism, namely in Musonius Rufus, Epictetus, Seneca, and Marcus Aurelius. Reference is made to Chaim Perelman's view of ancient rhetoric as an art of inventing arguments. Moreover, it is pointed out that in rhetorical education (cf. Cicero, *Ad Herennium*, Quintilian, etc.) as well as in therapeutic discourse the concept of "exercise" and constant practice play a crucial role.

KEYWORDS

Stoicism; Musonius Rufus; Epictetus; Seneca; Marcus Aurelius; Chaim Perelman; consolation; spiritual exercise

* PhD, assistant professor, Institute of Philosophy, University of Warsaw. E-mail: k.lapinski@uw.edu.pl. This research paper was supported by an NCN Miniatura 2 grant to carry out research at the University of Cambridge, UK (reg. no. 2018/02/X/HS1/01200).