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As I write these notes, it's the day after "Black Friday" which, as I understand it, is the kick-off of the American - and by default Canadian - holiday shopping seasons, coming on the American Thanksgiving holiday weekend. As we talked about in the recordings, this feels highly appropriate for a discussion about "situational ethics" - as we enter the holiday period wherein, collectively, our normal ways of thinking and being can

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go out the tinsel - bedecked
Window!

I've been enjoying Seneca's
collected letters lately - circa
63-65 AD - the last years
of his life - so eloquent
and a pleasure to read -
I've enjoyed his letter #18
in relation to our topic -
written in December in the
run-up to the Saturnalia
holiday -

"Remaining dry and sober
takes a good deal more strength
of will when every one about
one is puking drunk"

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and he advises "to be neither indistinguishable from those about one nor conspicuous by one's difference, to do the same things but not in quite the same manner"

My takeaway here is to be consistent to one's principles, without being ostentatious.

This relates to both our topic for the episode and the time of year.

A blessed Saturnalia, to those who partake!