

Epicurean philosophy vs. Stoicism in public popularity

Post by "Cassius" of March 13, 2021 at 10:27 AM

Another point --- It's very easy to simply say. "Follow pleasure!" and things like "Do what makes you happy!" but to have a philosophical movement, you have to explain why your point of view is correct, and why the absolutist ethical viewpoints are not valid. It can be very easy and superficial to talk about pleasure and happiness -- everyone sort of acknowledges the desirability of those things - but Epicurean philosophy is really a comprehensive view of the nature of the universe that when followed to its logical conclusions totally invalidates the absolutist approach. When you start talking in those terms, you pretty quickly move from being an amusing oddity to the establishment toward being a revolutionary threat to everything they believe in and hold dear, and that's a totally different ballgame.

Not many people are ready or willing or able to take Epicurean philosophy to its logical conclusions. Anchoring and leaving the discussion at the "Follow pleasure" level guarantees that most people won't give a second thought to taking you seriously.