

# Episode One Hundred Four - More Torquatus and a Question: Was The Ancient Epicurean Movement A Cult?

Post by "Don" of January 14, 2022 at 10:34 PM

I did have a question and observation:

(1) Both [Joshua](#) in this episode and DeWitt in his book say that Epicurus was definitely not a complete empiricist. I'm curious why that is.

To me, Epicurus seemed exactly to be described as that:

Quote

a person who supports the theory that all knowledge is based on experience derived from the senses.

Am I misunderstanding something in the definition of empiricism? I'm also not being argumentative, just curious.

On the topic of Epicurus's being "dogmatic," the word used in Diogenes Laërtius's work is

δογματιεῖν

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, δ , δμω-ή , δογμα^τ-ίζω](#)

with the sense of decree or "lay down as an opinion."

From the context of DL, I get the sense that it is a counter to the Cynics and Skeptics in that the wise one will take a firm stand and not be wishy-washy.

[Epicurean Sage - Declare their beliefs and not remain in doubt](#)

Hicks: He will be a dogmatist but not a mere sceptic; Yonge: he will pronounce dogmas, and will express no doubts; Mensch: He will assert his opinions and will...

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