

Epicurean Worldview, Personal Identity, and Creating Community

Post by “smoothiekiwi” of January 18, 2022 at 3:33 PM

[Cassius](#) , I agree with that! [Kalosyni](#) , you truly are a great writer, and it brought me pleasure reading your text 😊

Regarding your text, I've two thoughts. First, that Epicureanism is a philosophy which offers a coherent worldview. And I'll be the first one to acknowledge that I struggle with applying it, but a community isn't necessary to see the truth Epicurus had been preaching. Ataraxia, the independence from external events, is actually an extremely important concept in the philosophy, at least according to [Hiram](#) (looking at "Tending the Epicurean Garden"!)

But I of course completely agree that a community of like-minded people makes life so, so much easier. Heck, friendship is one of the things which make life worth living, and a community of like-minded individuals with whom one can discuss philosophical concepts even more!

The biggest problem with that is, I think, that adults are very, very, very reluctant to change their worldviews. It's necessary for them to a) have a very impactful event (like a divine revelation, although it may almost always explained psychologically), or b) to have an example for a long period of time.

And that's where Epicureanism kicked in. I remember that some time ago, I got a comment at the sub-reddit r/Stoicism: "if you want to change the people around you, you've to be the example".

And this quote is (sadly) right. No one will simply look at Epicureanism nowadays and think: "Wait, that makes sense!" People are wayyy too absorbed in politics and news and non-natural desires. What I think matters is that you set an example.

People will come. Charismatic personalities, self-assured people always attract friends.

I'm honestly hoping that this answer helped you at least a bit. And yes, I fear that it isn't the best answer or the one you've hoped for, but this exact question has also annoyed me for some time now, and this way is the best one I see out of this whole situation. It obviously isn't ideal, nor easy- but I don't really see another way out. If you know of one, let us know- I think the whole forum will benefit from it 😊