

On Where The Boundaries Of Proper Discussion At EpicureanFriends And In Open Forums May Exist (AKA - To What Extent Is "Direct Realism" Relevant to Epicurean Philosophy?)

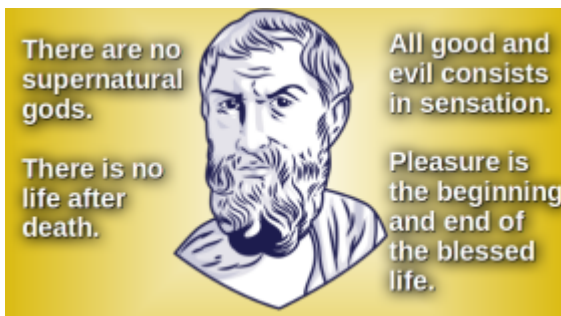
Post by "Cassius" of February 12, 2022 at 1:59 PM

And here's the major point on which I would like to see this discussion continue. I think we are always going to see a lot of "rotation" among active posters at a forum like this. People will come and go as their curiosity is struck and then satisfied.

I think the key to longer-term involvement, and what I want to encourage, is that basically everyone who comes here and decides that they agree with most of the basics should understand that it would be desirable (if they conclude Epicurus is right) to cultivate their own circles of friends with similar viewpoints in their local lives. That means that basically everyone should see that they aren't here just to absorb facts, or even to cultivate wisdom, but to then see that they need to apply the principles to improve their lives, and that means by cultivating their own local circles of Epicurean-friendly people. That can mean here on this forum, or on other online places, but also in their local nations, states, or communities. I think most of us would agree that we aren't really doing justice to Epicurus' ideas unless we see that it's important to implement them. And while we can be and hopefully will remain "online friends" we also need to look for similar relationships in the real world.

And so back to the original question in the post, I think it's important for us to be practical about where the boundaries really are on what we should expect to be able to discuss with people who aren't disposed to do a lot of technical research, and that probably includes most of us.

I put this graphic on the home page as a way of emphasizing a few key ideas that I think are at the every least among the "minimum":



But where the list is beyond that even I personally think is an open question.

At any rate I think this sets up the thread, in case any are interested in commenting on it.