

# Thoughts and Discussion on Organizing Epicurean Community

**Post by "Cassius" of September 17, 2022 at 2:05 AM**

No concerns Pacatus so far. The real issue is not so much identifying oneself as it is advocacy over time on contemporary issues. The ultimate questions of whether we have eternal souls or whether there are supernatural gods and whether there are ideal forms of right and wrong are where Epicurus spent his time. So far as I can tell, his allegiance to political parties was minimal, and any that was there was likely as much a matter of instrumentalism as his views on virtue or any other day to day issue.

The relevance here to our discussion of organization is that (at least in my view of setting up the forum) it is counterproductive to allow day to day issues to disrupt the larger goal of allowing people interested in the ultimate issues to talk to each other. That gets complicated sometimes here, and it would be complicated on real life local organizations too. But it just makes sense to put first things first and insist that lesser concerns be dealt with outside and after and not at the expense of the core concerns. I think that is doable here and in real life meetings too, but it means vigorous focus on a limited number of issues and a devotion to not getting distracted.

And that devotion to not getting distracted has a deep history for "the Epicurean movement" because "distraction" was the tool that Cicero and 2000 years of subsequent attackers have used to pin Epicurean philosophy into irrelevance. "Distraction" causes us to ignore the major accomplishments that Epicurus made in freeing the world from false philosophy and false religion and keeps us focused on debating nuances in types of pleasure. "Politics" would do the same if we allowed it. Remember how Cicero alleged that Epicurus was not suitable for discussion "in the Senate or the camp" - that's just another version of allowing politics to get in the way of ultimate truths, and distraction that keeps Epicurus marginalized.