

Ten (10) commandments

Post by "Charles" of November 18, 2022 at 12:22 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Does this seem like a ping pong game? It's a terrible idea to try to "translate" the ten commandments but at the same time it's a great exercise!

I do think both perspectives are true and this highlights how central "context" is to the Epicurean worldview. You've picked a particular context and within that context we can work toward something that's helpful, but at the same time we have to realize that out of its context it could actually be harmful.

I really do think this is why the PDs read as they do. They are sort of "principles" that don't necessarily lead TO a particular direction for a particular life, but they lead AWAY from major pitfalls that are pitfalls for everyone.

As much as I like the initiative of this thread, and the list is well-put together. I think it runs into the same issue of the Tetracharmakos. The ten commandments are backed up by numerous stories, contextual lessons, and the entire framing of the bible itself. The same can be said about the four part cure to the numerous Epicurean fragments, contextual readings of the PD's, and the entire framing of the philosophy itself. See the similarities?

In fact, the commandments seem to be more of a self-didactic reminder. Teaching blunt simplicity reinforces uncritical acceptance.