

Epicureanism as the spiritual essence or 'religion' of an entire community

Post by “Peter Konstans” of October 28, 2023 at 3:06 AM

[Quote from Jo.](#)

[Quote from Peter Konstans](#)

How would an Epicurean society raise and educate its kids? Since school is so horrendously boring, tedious and unpleasant to children (school is also the only place other than prison where people are quite likely to be bullied and tortured) how would an Epicurean society deal with the problem of educating the new generation?

I think that much of what makes school boring and unpleasant for children is their lack of choice in *what* exactly they are learning.

This isn't exactly a new approach but I think that giving kids the freedom to study what they are actually interested in, once they've got the essentials down, could very much make the whole "school" thing compatible with Epicureanism, without it being much of a dilemma at all. This could ensure that the children are actually happy to learn and that attending school causes them much less pain.

Bullying is of course a bit trickier. In my experience talking to people about these issues and having an authority figure (who actually knows what they are doing) appeal to the bully's sense of compassion is helpful, though I wouldn't presume my experience to be the only one. However I do believe that talking about it is always good and in the worst cases changing schools is definitely for the best.

The child would know that removing their pain is the top priority (and that this is more effective than comforting themselves by satisfying unnecessary desires). They might conclude that they should endure the potential pain of pointing out their troubles to avoid the greater pains of bullying or the fact that it interferes with their studying, which could cause them much pain later in life, should they fall behind in class.

This assumes that most kids are - at least potentially - interested in something taught in school. I would say that, sadly, more than half are not really interested in anything school has to offer and that there's no trick that can change that. Of course everybody - whether they like it or not - has to be literate and numerate in a modern society. But other than that, instead of wasting resources teaching kids lots of material they are either unwilling or unable to absorb, it would be better to pick those that have real talent and focus on educating them so that they can

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assume upon maturity those jobs and responsibilities that require specialization and education.