

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

Post by “Peter Konstans” of January 1, 2024 at 5:37 AM

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This assumes that all people have a special gift or talent waiting to be discovered and nurtured. This is an old Western humanist notion that I personally don't think is as true as we'd like to think. Some (probably most) people just don't have any hidden talent and that's ok. This mentality is liberating because it stops us from pressuring kids to 'prove themselves' or 'make something of themselves'. What if just accept that the most valid reason to stick around is to just be: to give pleasure and to take pleasure.

I should probably rephrase my original rephrasing again in light of your objection, but I'll just forge ahead. Upon reflection, I don't think every person has some innate, hidden "God-given" "special gift" or talent that needs uncovering. I do think everyone is interested in something, but without exposing students to a broad range of topics, they may never have another opportunity in having a glimpse of a wider world that's available to them, especially in smaller, rural communities. Speaking from a US perspective, as that's my background and experience.

I would agree that providing an education in the value of pleasure in one's life would be positive.

I don't think a strictly vocational education that it sounded to me like you were advocating is a positive direction. Are you implying only a select elite should be educated? You've also used the term "real talent," but are you referring to the select few who have "real talent" with the hoi polloi somehow being given a lesser education:

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it would be better to pick those that have real talent and focus on educating them so that they can assume upon maturity those jobs and responsibilities that require specialization and education.

I don't advocate a solely vocational education. I don't believe in educational approaches that focus on training. Yanis Varoufakis once said 'Training and education are two different things.

You can train a little puppy to do various tricks but you could never educate it' and I agree with that. I simply suggested that we shouldn't waste resources trying to educate all children because a great deal of them do not have a sufficient inclination towards education. What's the point teaching physics to a kid that doesn't possess above average intelligence?

It's the elite of society that really needs education. It's the statesmen, the public servants, the military officers, the doctors in public hospitals etc. Almost anybody who is paid by the public purse and entrusted with responsibility over other people's lives should possess a superb education and should always be a person that is morally and intellectually outstanding and not someone you could easily meet cheering in a WWE event. They should also be paid handsomely. When a career in politics pays less than a career in banking, talent flees the state in droves and mediocrity takes over.

It doesn't take much to discern which people possess a particular kind of aptitude and which don't. Talent scouts do that for a living. Teachers themselves do it all the time. I once heard a teacher say to a kid 'you are very bright. Make sure you put your brain to good use'. Speaking of teachers they have some of the worst mental health metrics across various occupations. That's because we place impossible demands on them and treat them essentially as babysitters.