

Pros and Cons Of Considering Epicurean Philosophy To Be A "Religion"

Post by "Peter Konstans" of February 2, 2024 at 5:13 AM

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

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The requirement that people should be willing to sacrifice their lives to save their friends and maintain their honor and integrity would ensure that we attract serious people.

That strikes me as quite different from being willing to sacrifice one's life for a set of dictated principles.

Can you give an example (whether hypothetical or historical or personal) of a principles-based sacrifice that you see as good and one that you see as bad? As I see it, making sacrifices on behalf of principles is simply part of the human condition. Human beings have the unique ability to subordinate aspects of their biology in pursuit of values. No other animal does that as far as I know. For example Catholic priests sacrifice (with various degrees of success) the strong biological urge of sexuality because that's part of the principles of being a catholic priest. Defeated warriors (like the extremely competent and energetic Walter Model) choose to die rather than surrender, overriding the supreme biological urge of self-preservation for no other reason than to preserve their honor and the dignity of the institutions they represent. Even the principle of Epicurean pleasure requires making sacrifices. Over time I have learned to resist the urge to consume cheap electronic entertainment and now reading a book feels like a supreme sensual delight. I have learned to resist the urge to consume calorie-rich food with abandon so that now a piece of cheddar feels like manna from heaven.