

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

Post by "Kalosyni" of February 3, 2024 at 9:03 AM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

We also have Philodemus On Home Economics (column 20, Tsouna translation):

"we must refer to the preconception that we possess about 'a good moneymaker,' ask in whom the content of that preconception is substantiated and in what manner that person makes money, and ascribe the predicate 'good moneymaker' [to whoever it may be in whom] those feature are attested"

In Diogenes Laertus Book X, it says of Epicurus:

"The terms he used for things were the ordinary terms, and Aristophanes the grammarian credits him with a very characteristic style. He was so lucid a writer that in the work *On Rhetoric* he makes clearness the sole requisite."

Now if we look at what Philodemus wrote in the example here, as refering to the preconception, then we have this formula:

1. word or phrase
2. a very specific person (or possibly also a very specific event or specific object)
3. specific actions (exact unfolding details)

So then rather than using words (or phrases) abstractly, we tie them down to clear, specific, and exact instances.

Now...if we were to go back to the beginning of this entire thread and every person goes back and explains each and every abstract word with this much clearer way of speaking...then we might have something much more beneficial. In my opinion we would all be much better off if when posting with more clarity and exactness (less abstraction...myself included).

And I am very grateful to [Bryan](#) an for finding that helpful quote by Philodemus.

So this goes for words such as "religion", "philosophy", and in a recent post the word "sacrifice"...and any other vague words here.

Let me try with the word "philosophy" (with the formula based on Philodemus)

1. philosophy

2. David Sedley

--- and the story of the Garden within "A Few Days in Athens"

3. interpretation of the writings of Epicurus (what David Sedley does)

---- a group of people who come together to study what Epicurus had to say (in "A Few Days in Athens" ...how they gathered in a school)

So this hopefully illustrates more clearly what I mean by philosophy. And the formula is based on past things (not future things).

If those who used words such as "religion" or any other words that may need clarifying, may like to try this out, to bring more clarity. (Possibly every person would have a slightly different way of rendering clarity for a particular word?)

Edit: I see I wasn't as clear and exact as Philodemus recommends, since I wasn't specific enough about what David Sedley does (which clarifies the word philosophy) and also didn't include enough details from "A Few Days in Athens).