

Forward vs Backward Momentum

Post by "Cassius" of September 24, 2024 at 8:50 PM

[Quote from Julia](#)

Bit of a tangent, but I've been wondering for a while: Which adjective (like "orthodox") would best describe the Epicurean philosophy predominant here, on EpicureanFriends? Is there a list contrasting the main branches of Epicurean philosophy somewhere?

On the website I try to refer to it as "[Classical Epicurean Philosophy](#)" to distinguish it from the various brands of "neo-Epicureanism" that comes from the major commentators being much more Stoic or Buddhist friendly than down-the-line Epicurean. But that's just an approximation.

There really aren't many people devoted to reconstructing Epicurean philosophy in a pure form in the world today, so it's probably fair to draw the dividing line between those who make an effort to be across-the-board Epicurean, including in issues such as determinism and canonicity, vs those who leave issues like that in the dust in favor of focusing on what "they" view as the central theme, which is to them "tranquility" / calmness, which usually boils down to a form of minimalism / asceticism which most any Stoic or Buddhist would be happy to embrace.

Given the open lack of desire of most commentators to embrace the whole sweep of the philosophy, "Classical Epicureanism" has seemed to be a workable label so far.

[Quote from Julia](#)

I used to not follow daily news at all. Through various ways, I slipped into this, and am now slowly, step by step quitting the vice again. The constant, instigated series of scandals and drama isn't worth my time and attention; it's just silly.

I think this is an area where it is very easy to go to unhealthy extremes. You're right there is a lot of silliness and total unproductiveness in following day-to-day politics. On the other hand I think it's important for everyone to have *some* idea of what is going on around them, because world events can definitely impact our daily lives, some of us more than others. And for those who are young enough and/or so inclined, I think there is plenty of evidence and precedent in Epicurean history to support just about any level of involvement that one wants to pursue in politics. The trick is knowing how much is productive and how much is not in your individual case, but contextual questions like that are always involved in all decisionmaking.

Your goal is to use your life and your time as productively as you can to live as happily as possible, and happiness involves both physical and "mental" pleasures. Only you can make the final decision on how far to get involved in following or participating in politics will enhance your overall mental and physical well-being / happiness / pleasure. Some will want nothing to do with

politics, and some won't be able to live with themselves if they aren't "doing what they can."