

Forward vs Backward Momentum

Post by "Julia" of September 25, 2024 at 6:23 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

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.

Hmm. "Classical", by referring to the time-period, is a very sensible and clear choice of words. What also makes sense to me is referring to the Stoic/Buddhist/... pseudo-Epicureans as "various brands of 'neo-Epicureanism'". What confused me was that you contrasted classical with "orthodox"? In my mind, "orthodox" refers to either: (1) a school of thought which is true to its roots, or (2) (more commonly) one which merely claims to be true/right/correct by being (professedly, but not actually) genuine/unmodified/original (and in truth is just an extreme interpretation placing way too much emphasis on individual words, specific translations).

That left me wondering: Is there an "orthodox" Epicurean branch in the sense of (2)? Or did you simply mean the various neo-Epicureans? 😊

[Quote from Cassius](#)

On the other hand I think it's important for everyone to have *some* idea of what is going on around them

I agree 👍

[Quote from Cassius](#)

The trick is knowing how much is productive and how much is not in your individual case

For me, it is hard to stay well when surrounded by an unending stream of (or virtually infinite pool of) problems (which is why IT security made me so paranoid I eventually had to quit). I attach too much to leave it be, try to find and solve all problems, lose myself in it. So with politics, I now try to keep it strictly pragmatic for an otherwise quasi-unpolitical life: just the enduring/overarching developments, and changes in law which actually impact me.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

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."

I don't think I could live with myself if I hadn't, in fact, done what I can, to the point where it severely impacted me. Knowing that I had an impact, nothing larger than life, but still a droplet in the ocean that will forever, if ever so slightly, change the ripples, now allows me to give myself permission to let go and put myself first, put my own pleasure first (which, needless to say, is what I should have done all along...) 😊

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

I wear a bracelet inscribed with "memento mori." It was Don who pointed out to me that this could be taken as much (maybe moreso) in an Epicurean vein as a Stoic one (where it seems to usually show up).

[Quote from Julia](#)

I agree with Don's perspective that it should be seen in more of an Epicurean than a Stoic light, but to me the phrase "Memento Mori" is too - and this is subjective - to me it is too closely associated with Christianity; but I hear what you're saying: I'll try and see if I can get a nice NFFNSNC ring or pendant somehow.

The NFFNSNC has more of a [PD01](#) connotation, when really I'm looking for [PD02](#) as Cassius has contrasted it above and as Don, Pacatus and I agree is the sense of Memento Mori. While "[Death is nothing to us](#)" is catchphrase-y fixed expression, the choice of words of VS14 is far clearer to me. Besides "[death is nothing to us](#)", is there a condensed, formulaic phrase capturing that [PD02](#)/VS14 meaning which I might want to use?