

Toronto Canada Meetup Group (Discussion on Implementation)

Post by "AxA" of April 4, 2025 at 4:09 PM

Last night we had 9 people meet in a "tea house" environment.

I found the smaller group size made for a more natural conversation. But it was a pub-like environment with far too much background noise.

It was framed as an "open discussion" with the Epicurus quotes in my pamphlet as starting points.

I found the most success posing a question that went around the table: "Is life mostly suffering, with some pleasure, or mostly pleasure, with some suffering?" I was expecting a simple answer, just to set up my idea that people who believe life is more suffering than pleasure are more likely to favour beliefs about denying the body and embracing transcendent spiritual realms or afterlives. But instead it led to some very detailed and varied insights on this topic.

We had an issue with a attendee who showed up halfway through and started delivering comedic monologues, always ready to jump in and speak at length. I had to repeatedly stop him and redirect the conversation to others. He had some good commentary and good jokes. He seemed to be aware of what he was doing, even used the term "monologue" and said he "accepts correction". So he was willing to be interrupted and yield the floor, but it seems like it would require active intervention to maintain a round table discussion. Once again, I'm learning the requirements of being an active moderator, much more than my original idea of saying "talk about whatever you want".

We ended with: "The optional "homework" is to think of ways of bringing this philosophy to life other than talking. Conversation will always of course have an important place in philosophy, but I'm interested in all the other ways to turn these ideas into real life effects. The suggestions so far have been boxing, interpretive dance, and eating (either feasting on cheese or just eating bread, olives and water after a long walk for "hunger sauce" lol)."