

Welcome Rolf!

Post by "Cassius" of April 16, 2025 at 7:16 AM

Here's something else about the benefit of looking for and participating in a "community" of like minded people who are interested in Epicurus.

It's very important to be willing and dedicated to thinking for yourself, and not allowing anyone to tell you to take what they say on faith and authority. I fully agree with that.

BUT -

The truth of the world is that there are highly organized forces that have spent thousands of years perfecting methods of philosophical and religious intimidation and oppression. A single individual stands no chance against those forces on his or her own. Most people are not going to be able to make a dent against those forces collectively, or even to the extent of freeing their own minds personally from that influence, without a lot of reading and information and communication from outside themselves.

Again speaking from my recent "Nature's God..." reading, I'll give everyone from 500 AD on up to now the benefit of the doubt and accept that it was absolutely impossible - under penalty of death - for them to escape from the influence of Judeo-Christianity. So I can understand why they would tread lightly around Epicurus and try to cover him over with theism. So my point is not to criticize them, even though of course I do question whether it was absolutely impossible to reproduce an intellectual environment that was widespread in the Roman world only a few hundred years before.

But no one should underestimate the power that has accumulated in established institutions of the world. The various isms that run it, including "humanism," might look like they are all over the board, and they do often agree on very little, except they do agree that Epicurean philosophy is unacceptable.

Our little discussion forum here is not going to make a dent in that power either, but over time, if there is ever to be any re-emergence for truly Epicurean ideas, (in other words to ever get back to the intellectual freedom of 50 BC) people who agree with Epicurean views will have to find ways to work together to get a foothold. That's the only way to hope to stand up against the combined efforts of the rest of the world that keep Epicurean views chained up only to the world of food and other immediate bodily indulgence.