

Toronto Canada Meetup Group (Discussion on Implementation)

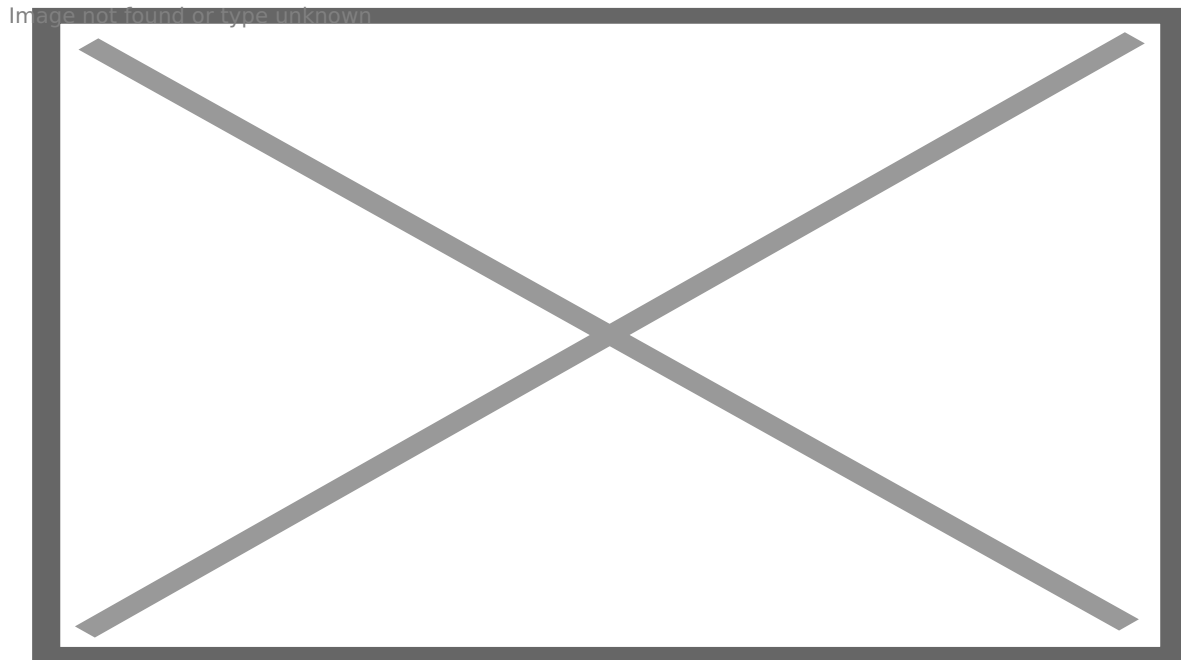
Post by "AxA" of April 28, 2025 at 11:36 AM

Here's the message I sent out to all group members after our last gathering, a pot luck on Saturday:

Thank you to all who have been a part of this experiment.

I started this group because talking about the "big questions" has always been one of my favourite activities. I recently discovered the surprisingly refreshing philosophy of Epicurus, and I was surprised how almost nobody had even heard of these ideas. So I wanted to meet some others who also enjoy these topics and enjoy some philosophical discussion together.

I was initially imagining 5 people sitting around a cafe table, and I was blown away by the big turnout. My first learning curve was how to actually have a group conversation. As a rules minimalist, I actually started with "everybody can share whatever they want about whatever topic they feel is important" lol. And so I learned what a moderator is and what a real art and skill it is to guide a group conversation. I kept hearing from multiple sources that there is one meetup group that has really nailed how to do this: Practical Philosophy.



[Practical Philosophy Club - Ontario \[\] | Meetup](#)

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4302-toronto-canada-meetup-group-discussion-on-implementation/?postID=34989#post34989>

The goal of the Practical Philosophy Club is to create a community that is open discussing ideas that can be used practically in everyday life. Our discussions...

www.meetup.com

We've had four group discussions in total, and each one has provided some surprising new ideas for me and some tasty food for thought. But I also found that these group discussions are not the way I find most rewarding to discuss philosophy. I've learned to respect and admire the position of a moderator to handle all the different personalities and shape a discussion into something that is valuable for all. But I don't find it particularly pleasant. My ideal for a philosophical conversation is more like two people walking in a park. Maybe three or four. Where there's room for each person to go into depth about what they each consider important.

So once I realized this, the second phase of the experiment was the idea that instead of talking about philosophy, I want to find ways to "put it into practice". But what does that even mean? As was pointed out to me last night, philosophy is something that is expressed not in any particular activity but in the way we live in totality. Our philosophy comes out in our style, the way we do every little thing.

The one thing that came to mind for me was the practice of communal eating. I believe this is a very good activity in so many ways. I love the idea of full on community meal prep. But the simplest way into this is with a simple potluck meal. So this was my next learning curve. Once again I started with the minimal rules possible: "everybody bring whatever you want". Which resulted in an assortment of snacks and 50 leftover tangerines (which I took home, peeled and froze lol). And so I learned with the help of this group how to do a potluck. Thanks to this new level of organization, the new generously hosted venue, and everyone's participation in bringing an impressive variety of dishes, I was very satisfied with what came together as a real full potluck meal last night. I was pleased to see the general good cheer and enjoyment in the room and I was glad to be part of making that event happen for everyone's benefit. But it was general group socializing, something I don't particularly enjoy myself. I love an in depth one on one conversation, and I love doing useful work in a group, but just with my personality, I don't find much pleasure in that kind of group chatting.

So that reaches the conclusion of the second phase of my experiment, and I don't yet have a third phase in mind.

I would love to hear from any and all of you, either in the whatsapp group (contact me by meetup message if you'd like an invite link) or in a private message. What brought you to this group? What worked and what didn't? What do you imagine this group could be? And if you could make this group anything you wanted just for you, what would it be like?

Thank you for enriching my life with these experiences. Before 2025, everything that's happened here was not even in my imagination.