

Alexa in the Garden of Epicurus

Post by “Cassius” of August 25, 2025 at 9:34 AM

I have to repeat how much I agree with this chart from Don's post above, and I'm going to post it at [the Epicurean facebook group](#) with this comment:

A friend has pointed me to the graphic I am posting below. It comes from an article against the dangers of AI. The article has a small amount of political content that is against our group rules to highlight, and I deliberately omit referring to that here. But the majority of the article is non-political, and it describes the real--world effects of "collapse of confidence in reality" which AI has the potential to encourage

The reason I am posting this is not to comment on AI, but that I don't think this chart is limited to describing problems with AI. I'd say this chart is exactly what has happened to the West as a whole since about 100 AD and the wide suppression of the growing Epicurean movement. It's just this series of disasters described in the chart that Epicurean philosophy was developed to oppose. The big issue is that we shouldn't see this as a modern phenomena that began or got worse with AI. These disastrous attitudes are inherent in every form of skeptical / mystical / absolutist philosophy such as what Epicurus revolted against. And these problems are inherent in post-Epicurean western civilization for the last two thousand years.

THESE PROBLEMS are the enemy that Epicurus fought against with his physics and canonics, and it's why we need to emphasize all aspects of his philosophy. If we understand Epicurean physics and canonics we'll end up with a sound understanding of Epicurean ethics. If we *don't* understand the physics and canonics, Epicurean ethics is arbitrary and can be twisted into something far worse than worthless, as it has become in the writing of many commentators.

WHEN REALITY COLLAPSES

What happens when we can't trust the reality of images, videos, text, or the entire web?

SKEPTICISM

If events can't be validated, I can't give credence to anything.

ALOOFNESS

If everything gets called into question, I have no basis for shared communal actions.

SILENCE

If discussion no longer resolves anything, I have no purpose in speaking.

INDIFFERENCE

As I lose connection with people and events, I lose interest in them.

DISTRUST

In a world without shared reality, no expert

