

Article - David Sedley - 1988 - "Epicurean Anti-Reductionism"

Post by "DaveT" of March 27, 2026 at 3:35 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I see mostly regression from 2000 years ago, and in order to deal with that regression we need to focus on where things went wrong and how applying core Epicurean attitudes could redress those problems.

I understand your point of view. On the other hand I see progress away from the monarchical God and church appointed governments of the last 250 years. No longer do we accept conquest in the name of god's command to subjugate the earth.

I think there is something to be said about a focus on the secular adaptation of Epicurean principles that have made their way into common society, into academia and medicine as well as government policies even though those principles are not often recognized as Epicurean.

One might call this raw hedonic calculus, if I follow you, but it is still moving away from mythology in practice accross Europe and North America. Most PEW polling shows the decline of popular participation in religious organizations. It seems to me this is to the good, even if people haven't fully broken with their all-to-human fear of displeasing an unprovable divinity, believing in Astrology, having their palms read and fearing ghosts.

On your point of searching for a way to deal with newer people, I'm guessing you mean newer to the Forum. I've heard that the way to engage with others is to ask those people, who they are in real life, why they joined, what their goals are at the Forum, and perhaps when they might have the time to participate. I think those questions can be asked tactfully, not just to new people, but perhaps they might become a part of an annual discussion among the membership.