

Discussion of Blog Article - "Reality Does Not Require Being Eternally The Same"

Post by "Cassius" of April 2, 2026 at 1:25 PM

[DaveT](#) another example of my personal priority of where to spend time:

(1) I think we need very clear lists and charts and descriptions of the most basic of Epicurean canonical, physical, and ethical positions. That's what I've been working on for months with the material that is on the first page, on [epicurustoday.com](#). That provides a newcomer with a very clear list of things to focus on, and I think that's of primary importance. If people come to grips with those and largely agree with them, then we have firm grounds for studying nature using a shared framework as Epicurus repeatedly advises.

(2) Next, I'm on the alert for pesky issues that continue to intrude on the objective. Those include (A) Stoicism (which I think in many cases translates into "seeing tranquility rather than pleasure as the goal." It also includes (B) "skepticism" - "Epicurus hasn't proved his case because in fact Epicurus CAN'T prove his case because it's really not possible to prove cases from nature in the first place. It appears to me that most modern philosophy but also Kant falls in this general category." Then there's (C) idealism / absolute morality - which is where "humanism" comes in, and again where the Kantian "categorical imperative" is involved.

Each of those A B and C in the last paragraph are major issues that most people are going to bring with them when they come to the study of Epicurus. They are also very difficult to dislodge even among some who generally begin to appreciate that the core issue isn't "How much ice cream should I eat?" but "How should I view the world at its deepest levels? (from which you can derive how much ice cream to eat much later on).

And as a specific example of that when I hear it said that "Epicurus' physics are obsolete" what I firmly believe to be going on is that they are not really saying "Epicurus didn't understand subatomic particles so his physics is obsolete." What they are really saying, or at least when normal people will hear, is "*Epicurus' was wrong to conclude that the universe is eternal, and that there's nothing outside the universe, and all those questions are not answered, and will never be answered, so we'd better be humble about supernatural forces and life after death and make our Pascal's bargain to learn to live with the possibility that the religions are right.*"

And one of the operating presumptions of this forum is that we are dealing with "normal people" who want "normal lives lived happily" and we're not catering to those who live for the exhilaration that they apparently get from reveling in uncertainty about every question in life. That's a description of the kind of people I think we have here at the forum, and that we want to cultivate. All the while realizing that there are many many people who don't agree with that framework, and that we aren't going to be able to do build the community we'd like to have

here if we cater to that second category.