

Marriage & children seem less pleasurable today: financial worry, relational problems, high rates of divorce. Is it worth the pain, the tarakhē (τάρραχή) it entails?

Post by "Cassius" of July 1, 2026 at 4:35 PM

Thanks for that detailed post Raphael. I think you've raised some important questions that are well within our forum rules to discuss. No doubt there are some aspects of what you have brought up that will get close to our forum no-politics rule. I would appreciate as this thread unfolds that participants be sure to focus on the larger pleasure vs. pain calculation issues that Raphael has mentioned as opposed to the "political" implications of overall social policy. The issues you mention have major impact on "us" and are not hypothetical, so I think we can discuss this productively.

I would suggest that one of the most important aspects to discuss is in fact how the article starts out - weighing the practical costs and practical benefits and discussing what factors - physical and mental - we should be considering in our own situations. We are not in a position to dictate social policy to anyone, but we are in a position to discuss how we ourselves should employ Epicurean ideas to respond in our own situations.

For many of us the questions only start with "what happens when we get old and we don't have the support network of younger family that was the norm (even if it wasn't *always* present) for thousands of years previously."