

Epicurus, gods and God

Post by "Todd" of October 15, 2019 at 4:14 PM

Quote

My personal bright line is mainly to rule out of court any version of the position that "Epicurus said things things because he was a hypocrite, just to save himself from the fate of Socrates." Because at some point if someone doesn't respect that the Epicureans were attempting to be honest on something as basic as this, on which they made repeated clear statements, then that person really has no sincere interest in being part of a group that respects Epicurean philosophy.

Agreed.

However...Epicurus also taught that the virtues (honesty, sincerity), and vices (dishonesty, hipocrisy) are not inherently good or bad, but only to the extent that they produce pleasure or pain.

It would be quite Epicurean to lie about your religious beliefs to people who are going to harm you if you tell the truth.

Lying to your students or fellow Epicureans would be a bit more problematic.

To be clear, I do not believe Epicurus was lying or trying to hedge his religious beliefs.

I just wanted to add a bit of nuance.