

SOE13: The goal of religion

Post by "Hiram" of December 31, 2019 at 3:10 PM

[Quote from Oscar](#)

his guest says something along the lines of well then Epicurus must be true, and SH totally ignores this and moves topic. SH lost all my respect that day. I won't listen and recommend him since he's a salesman and I'm not interested in buying what he's selling.

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Of course I encourage listening to the whole conversation but we're all short on time and so the context is SH is talking with his guest, who attempts to refute the Epicurean argument about death being nothing to us...his guest presses SH to explain and accept the Epicurean argument which SH, at least to my senses seems to, disingenuously pretend to know and accept.

Shortly before the 55 minute mark, his guest again repeats "that's the Epicurean argument" to which SH seems so confused.

Sam Harris has ALWAYS ignored or been ignorant about Epicurus and is 100 % sold on secular Buddhism.

That's always been one of my main critiques of him. In my review of his "Moral Landscape" I argue that when he discusses the need for a nature-based morality, he is completely oblivious to Polystratus and Epicurus' case for pleasure-based morality. I often feel that he's trying to reinvent the wheel

In my review of his "Waking Up" I also say that he's selling the Buddhist doctrine of no-self and that we need to posit a materialist theory of self to counter it.

Even then, he makes a few good points, and I give him credit for calling for a "science of contemplation", BUT I insist that **Epicurus was the first one to call for a science of contemplation**. He didn't say: "that's idealism and so we shouldn't talk about it!". He called for the study of religiosity as a material, natural phenomenon and **referred the study of religious practices to what happens in the mind and IN THE BODY when people engage in religious practices**. That's why these quotes from "On Piety" are so important to me, because they can help us to continue the work of Epicurus in the modern age, and also to insert ourselves into these modern conversations and show how Epicurus had something to say and how he's being vindicated.