

Highlights and doubts after reading Chapter 1 (Part 1 of 2)

Post by “Don” of July 5, 2020 at 10:14 PM

[Mathitis Kipouros](#) , I certainly sympathize with your uneasiness about the use of the word "dogma" and its religious baggage. I believe this also goes to (partially, at least) Epicurus's opposition to the Skeptics. In [my translation of the characteristics of an Epicurean sage](#), I translated the usual translation "a sage will dogmatize..." as...

Quote

(the sage will) [Declare their beliefs and not remain in doubt](#)

Similar to my reply in that last post, I think this means the Epicurean puts trust in the picture of reality painted by Epicurus, declares those beliefs trustworthy, and doesn't remain in doubt - going through life in want or need - of an explanation of reality.

At its most basic, dogma just means [a settled opinion or someone firmly established](#). It doesn't *need* to be something taken on blind faith. Epicurus has reasoned out his "dogma" and built it on a firm foundation, that's why we can trust it or, if you will, have "faith" in it.