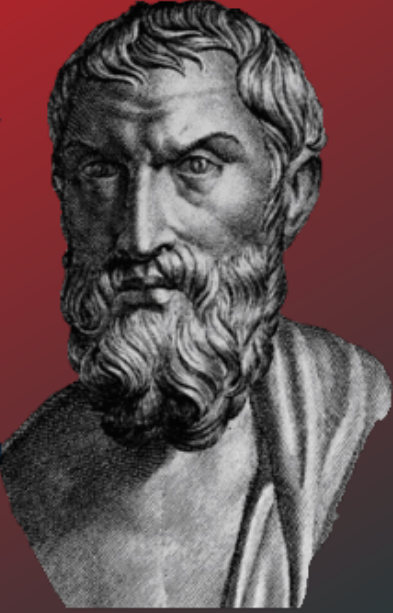


Our Posting Policies At Epicureanfriends.com: No Partisan Politics; No Supernatural Religion; No Absolute Virtue

Post by "Cassius" of August 17, 2019 at 10:23 AM

Our Posting Policy At EpicureanFriends.com:
"No Partisan Politics," "No Supernatural Religion," and "No Absolute Virtue"

This forum is dedicated to promoting the philosophy of Epicurus, and not to any partisan political positions whether "left," "right," or "center." The task of rediscovering Epicurean philosophy requires that such discussions be held elsewhere. Posts violating this rule are subject to removal.



Epicurean philosophy firmly rejects the viewpoint that there are any supernatural forces or absolute virtues or Platonic ideals of any kind. Argument which is based on supernatural claims, or "absolute" virtues or ideals of any kind, are in violation of this rule and subject to removal.

Although we have done a good job of keeping day to day politics out of our group discussions, this is a topic that should not be left to guesswork on where we stand. Failure to address this topic probably causes dissonance in the minds of many people who think that their own interpretation of Epicurus leads directly to a certain set of political positions.

And I agree with these people. I think Epicurean philosophy does have direct application to political issues. However - and this is a huge caveat - what I don't think is obvious to most people is that Epicurean philosophy won't lead everyone to the same political conclusion any more than it would lead everyone to choose apple pies over chocolate cake.

Depending on one's circumstances, someone applying Epicurean philosophy can probably reach many different political conclusions, almost without limitation on the spectrum. And since

we see how Epicurus firmly stated that there is no such thing as absolute justice, I strongly suspect that I should not hedge with the "almost" in that last sentence. What do PD 7-10 establish other than the many alternate paths that people can choose from to pursue pleasure, with the only test of "legitimacy" being whether that path ultimately proves to be successful for them?

Rather than leave all this unstated, I think it is best to make clear from the beginning of anyone's participation here that we personally in this group, and this Epicureanfriends.com forum, are here to promote Epicurean philosophy first, last, and only. That goal is too important to allow anything to stand in the way, and we can't let argument over political interpretations fragment us into warring segments over politics when we have so much to do to reconstruct the full body of Epicurean philosophy.

As an historical point I am increasingly convinced that there were Epicureans on **both** sides of the Roman civil war who saw nothing about their philosophies that prevented them from taking opposing sides. Not only did they take opposing side, in the case of Atticus some even tried to split the baby right down the middle. And all of those positions were probably correct applications of Epicurean philosophy in their own cases.

Many of us have very strong political viewpoints and political interpretations of Epicurean philosophy. I think that is perfectly natural, understandable, and I think Epicurus would be the first to endorse the widest possible application of his philosophy. However if we allow advocacy for our own views to supplant our more basic work on reconstructing Epicurean philosophy, that will freeze out or suppress others with other political views, and then our mission of promoting Epicurus goes down the drain, sacrificed for the sake of narrow political objectives.

In contrast to politics, the subject of religion is deeply intertwined with Epicurean positions on the nature of the universe and Epicurean positions on the best way of life. Just as introducing political discussions would invite divisions that distract us from our goal, it should be equally clear that supernatural religion, and argument based on supernatural religion, are totally incompatible with Epicurean philosophy. This should be so obvious to everyone that little more should need to be said.

So this graphic is a step toward keeping our focus on the goal of promoting Epicurean philosophy.

PD 25 If on each occasion, instead of referring your actions to the end of nature, you turn to some other nearer standard when you are making a choice or an avoidance, your actions will not be consistent with your principles.

The full text of the graphic is as follows:

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Post by “Joshua” of August 17, 2019 at 10:41 AM

Excellent point regarding the conflicts of the first century B.C. Horace was another who served first in the army of the Senate/Republic, and then in the court of Augustus after the dust settled.

Post by “Cassius” of September 15, 2019 at 12:50 PM

Today the following has been added to the community standards:

Quote

5) Do not create posts composed of nothing other than links. Any links to locations outside the forum must contain comment on whether they are endorsed or criticized which explain how they relate to the forum. (Added 09/15/19)

This change in policy is implemented to prevent the forum from being flooded with academic posts which argue positions hostile to an activist and positive interpretation of Epicurean philosophy. This rule has not been enforced in the past but as the forum grows in size and there are more posts from newer people, it is not going to be possible to stay on top of every post and read the link to provide immediate commentary. This rule has been adopted over at the Facebook forum with good effect, and it is time to adopt it here.

Very few people are creating posts with nothing but links, and the ones who are doing so currently are doing it with good intent. However we need to look to the future and to apply rules evenhandedly, so that's the reason for this rule.

Post by “AydenNewman” of May 21, 2023 at 11:48 PM

Hey, I totally get what you're saying. Keeping politics out does make sense to keep the focus on Epicurean philosophy itself. Plus, avoiding supernatural religion maintains that consistency too. It's a good approach, IMO.

Post by “Eikadistes” of May 22, 2023 at 9:18 AM



Post by “Eikadistes” of May 22, 2023 at 9:19 AM



Post by “Cassius” of May 22, 2023 at 11:10 AM

It is kind of ironic! In many cases it makes sense to avoid politics, in many other cases it is essential to charge right in! In truth politics is just another example of exercising prudence to chose your actions wisely, and not a place for a flat prohibition any more than any other place in life!

Post by “Don” of May 22, 2023 at 11:13 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

It is kind of ironic! In many cases it makes sense to avoid politics, in many other cases it is essential to charge right in! In truth politics is just another example of exercising prudence to chose your actions wisely, and not a place for a flat prohibition any more than any other place in life!

Context, context, context.

Post by “Cassius” of May 22, 2023 at 11:21 AM

Like "location location location" in real estate!

Post by “Don” of May 22, 2023 at 12:30 PM

For additional context, here's a related thread:

Thread

[What "Live Unknown" means to me \(Lathe Biosas\)](#)

Fragment 551 famously reads λάθε βιώσας and is usually translated as "Live unknown." It could also be translated as "Live hidden," "Live unnoticed," or "Live while escaping notice."

But how do we square this coming from Epicurus who is known two thousand years after he died. Did he live by this maxim? We can't say Epicurus was even unknown during his life. So how are we to understand λάθε βιώσας as it pertains to him and ourselves?

Epicurus encouraged people to shun the world of politics and the...



Don

March 7, 2020 at 11:12 PM

Post by “RexWatts” of May 23, 2023 at 5:54 AM

Honestly, I think this is a super important point. Epicureanism is about personal happiness and how we reach it, so it's only right that interpretations of it might lead to different political conclusions. Focusing on the core principles of the philosophy and promoting them, rather than letting politics or religion overshadow those principles, is key. Also, for those interested in more political-centered discussions, there's always https://www.politiq.net/US_President_D...y_Election_2024 . Y'all laid it out well!

Post by “Cassius” of April 4, 2025 at 10:20 AM

This response from "Oso" (see the blue section) came in today at the Epicurean Philosophy Facebook Group. My references are to the Facebook group policies, but the post is in regard to the same "no partisan politics" rule we implement here. I thought it would be good to share here in this thread:

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1286-our-posting-policies-at-epicureanfriends-com-no-partisan-politics-no-supernatura/>



Cassius Amicus

The rules refer to the purpose of this group - to study and promote "Epicurean" philosophy and not to be constantly involved in debates with Stoics and others who are reject core Epicurean values. There are many places on the internet whether those debates are welcome, but this group is about EPICUREAN philosophy, and that means understanding what Epicurus did and did not teach. Many people like to be eclectic and pick and choose among different viewpoints, and again there are many places where some points taught by Epicurus are combined with points taught by others, and that is what is meant by "Neo-Epicureanism."

Since the time that we first launched this group Facebook has made many changes in the way groups are structured, and the documents we prepared are now located in this subdirectory that I'll link here:

<https://www.facebook.com/.../EpicureanPhilosophy/files/files>

Check out particularly this one:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EpicureanPhilosophy/permalink/2292507754131505>



Epicurean Philosophy

3w Like Reply Share Remove Preview



Oso Steph

Cassius Amicus Thank you for this, I can not tell you how many recent philosophical groups I've joined where they're arguing about politics. The fact that the admin in this group are focusing on the philosophy and principles itself is lovely. Thank you

14h Like Reply Share

2