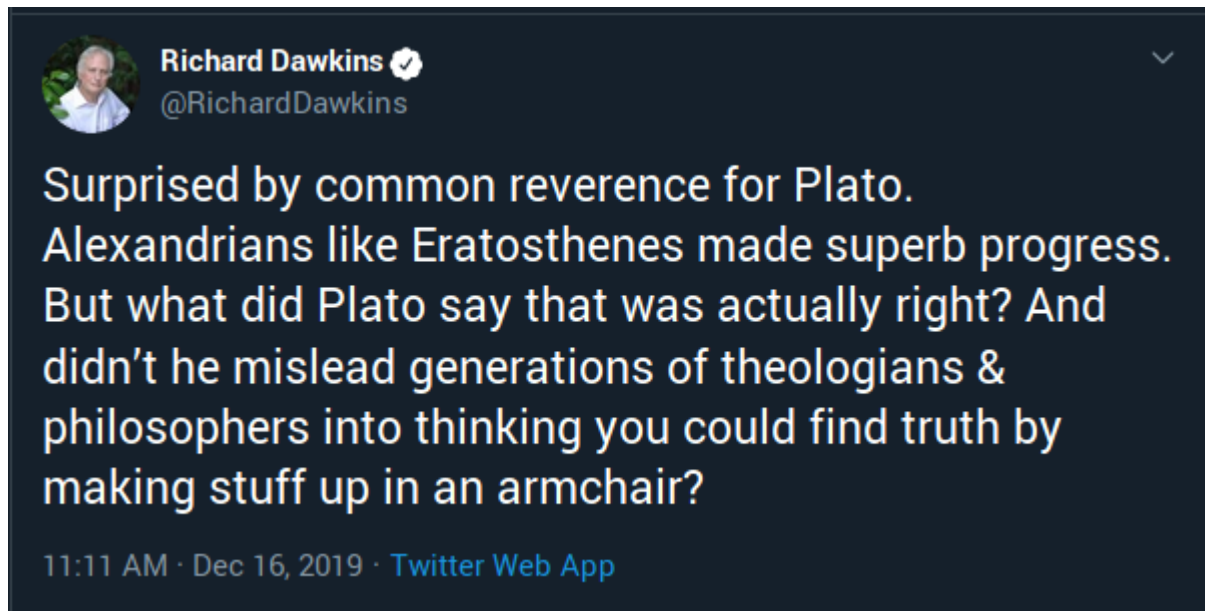


Richard Dawkins Channels The Spirit of Epicurus!



Richard Dawkins connects with the spirit of Epicurus! 😊 New members of the group, please pay special attention, and see the clips on Epicurus v Plato in the thread below. Most of the modern commentators are too busy trying to convince you that Epicurus redefined "pleasure" in a nonsensical way and so they never get around to telling you that Epicurean philosophy is largely a total rejection of Platonism. It's good that Richard Dawkins sees the same problems!

As a man of science Epicurus returned to the tradition of the Ionian thinkers, which had been interrupted by Socrates and Plato. The chief positive influence on his thinking was Ionian, the chief negative influence Platonic. The error in this instance consists in the failure to recognize Epicurus as an Antiplatonist and a penetrating critic of Platonism.

epicureanfriends.com/wcf/attachment/772/

The promulgation of the new philosophy was bound to mean the declaration of war upon the whole program of Platonic education, not only because it was the system then dominant in the schools but also for the reason that more than others it stood for the tight combination of ethics with politics which disqualified philosophy for universal acceptance.

It was this opposition to Platonism that chiefly determined the shape of Epicureanism; more than half of its forty Authorized Doctrines are flat contradictions of Platonism. It is the mistake of historians to oppose Epicurus to Stoics. This is an anachronism; it comes of throwing back into the lifetime of Epicurus a hostility that arose only after his death. The error is chiefly due to the writings of Cicero, who matches Epicureans and Stoics as if rival schools of gladiators.