

Alt-tech outreach

Post by “Cassius” of February 22, 2021 at 9:26 AM

Matthaios I am low on time as I write this so I know my response will seem clipped. Both Elayne and I have written lengthy comments on the issue of politics and I will try to come back and link them here.

The point I want to emphasize is that I do not believe that in general terms Epicurean philosophy and politics are incompatible at all. Elayne is very politically active, as was Frances Wright, and certainly Thomas Jefferson, and Cassius Longinus, and Atticus, and I would even dare say that Epicurus himself was not averse to it. But the example of Epicurus is what I think we need to commit ourselves to following in this group, because the mixture of modern politics into this forum would be detrimental to the main goal of providing a foundational place for everyone who is interested in Epicurus to explore and sharpen their understanding.

it is my view that it is totally appropriate for people to pursue their interest in applying Epicurus to politics. On the left there is R Hanrott with his Epicurus.today blog, and many of the other Epicurean pages on the internet treat politics implicitly or explicitly. I think there are certainly logical limits on which political movements would embrace Epicurus (I can't see any religion-based movement doing so) but on the other hand I do not think there are many other bright lines we could draw if we are rigorously clear about the non-absolute nature of Epicurean justice and the rest of the philosophy.

I think in my role here it is best to take the position that everyone should pursue their study and application of Epicurus as best they see fit, while also understanding that the messy political issues of today fade into the background when you consider the two thousand year history of Epicurean philosophy and all the opposition it has faced from so many quarters in the past. I want to first see the growth of a foundational base of people who are really keyed in to the basic issues, and I think that this forum and my personal efforts best fit if we limit ourselves HERE to that goal. But at the same time it is very true that all of us have our own personal lives to live, and there will be many times in which the issues of today, including contemporary politics, MUST take precedence if we are to survive.