

Epicurean philosophy vs. Stoicism in public popularity

Post by “Cassius” of March 20, 2021 at 10:11 AM

I have to come back to this, and also emphasize I am not directing it at Don:

[Quote from Elayne](#)

In fact, this issue is key to the differences between us and Stoics, and in the difficulties we face in attracting as much interest. ***People resist understanding that nothing defines pleasure other than the direct experience.*** Maximum pleasure is not modified or limited by definitions or concepts-- it simply occurs or does not.

I think this is a HUGE problem. This is where people have their pre-existing virtue systems of their group or even just themselves, and they have an extremely hard time accepting that imposing their system on others cannot be justified philosophically through Epicurus or anyone else, and certainly not through religion.

This is the aspect that I think makes Epicurus so revolutionary. The upheavals brought about by Karl Marx would eventually pale in comparison to the widespread adoption of fundamental Epicurean philosophy. And there are deeply entrenched institutions throughout almost every aspect of society and every corner of the modern world that are going to do everything they possibly can to make sure (from their point of view) that such a revolution never takes place.