

Carl Sagan, the 4th dimension, episode 20 of Lucretius Today, physics

Post by "Don" of August 18, 2021 at 11:22 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

[Quote from Don](#)

Or What is the point of Epicurus's philosophy?

To me, that answer would be "the greatest good". I'm seeing the greatest good (is it good as in pleasing/right or good as in wares/household goods?), the goal, telos, etc as closely related if not synonymous myself.

Later.

Probably yesterday or the day before I would myself use exactly those words, and I may use them later today or tomorrow.

But I increasingly get the feeling that without strict qualification this approach is what Epicurus warned against, and that Godfrey is pointing the same way as Camotero who is stating the issue very well:

[Quote from camotero](#)

I think "the greatest good" is here being used as a platonic ideal. I think Epicurus philosophy pointed to something very material instead: Teaching how to care for the only object you can really possess (life) and how to give it the best use possible (following pleasure) while being able to resolve confusions about it (the canon).

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Against my better judgement, I looked at my phone. I can resist anything but temptation. Or to put that more Epicureanly, I *choose* to not resist temptation.

Two points, and I'm off again until this evening:

[Cassius](#) : I don't really understand your reluctance or uneasiness about "those words." Epicurus repeatedly uses telos (goal) and tagathon (the good) throughout his extant writings.

[Mathitis Kipouros](#) : I think you've hit the nail on the head with your comment. Other philosophers looked to something intangible outside of nature as "the greatest good" like Virtue. Epicurus said "No, the greatest good is right here. You can feel it." That, to me, is his point. That's why the Tetracharmakos can say "The good (tagathon) is easy to get." By the good, I read pleasure there. It's right here in front of you. Carpe the diem .

Epicurus is taking their abstract, obtuse concepts and giving them real, tangible, natural antecedents.

All for now. Great frank conversation!!