

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

Post by "Don" of August 18, 2021 at 7:09 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

the idea that there is one specific goal or one way of life that all people should follow

Oh, I have no problem saying Epicurus did, in fact, advocate for "one specific goal" - living the most pleasurable life - and "one way of life" - follow the guides of pleasure and pain to make your life choices. Otherwise, why would he found the Garden? Why would he write so many books, letters, and epitomes? He had an agenda. Lucretius fully believed Epicurus found the best path to organize one's life otherwise he wouldn't have written those soaring prefaces to the books of his poem. Epicurus and his students and successors waged word-battles, tooth and nail, against rival schools because they felt Epicurus's teaching and his way of living were superior to all the other alternatives. There was an "evangelist" quality to the spread of the philosophy precisely because those spreading the word felt the way of life advocated by Epicurus could help people live more fulfilling lives.

Epicurus's relativism in ethics or justice doesn't preclude him saying "Your philosophy, Plato/Aristotle/etc, will not lead to a pleasant life. Mine will!"

I'm not willing to cede the battlefield and Epicurus's own words to the enemy and play by their rules. If words like "goal" and "the good" are used by "the other side," I'm happy to redefine them with more material, tangible meanings.

Whew!! Okay, so I got that off my chest then... [steps down from soapbox, motions for next person to take the stage]