

# Why Tranquility Should Not Be the Main Goal for an Epicurean

Post by "Don" of December 1, 2021 at 3:37 PM

Striker: 👍 👍

I concur with what has been said. I'll just add several observations:

*In debate he was looked down upon by no one, for he could both discourse at length and also sustain a cross-examination, so that even Nausiphanes when a young man was captivated by him : at all events he used to say that we should follow Pyrrho in disposition but himself in doctrine ; and he would often remark that Epicurus, greatly admiring Pyrrho's way of life, regularly asked him for information about Pyrrho ;* DL Lives IX.11.64  
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...hlight=epicurus>

So, Epicurus was evidently an admirer of Pyrrho's way of life, just not his philosophy (since he rejected Nausiphanes in the end, too)

Striker: "It seems that Democritus was concerned to admonish his fellow citizens to refrain from polypragmosyne, being busybodies and meddling with other people's affairs; advising them that cheerfulness and peace of mind are more likely to flourish in a quiet life of minding one's own business"

This sounds generally Epicurean to me.

Striker: "Skeptical tranquillity can only be reached if one does not try for it"

This sounds generally Zen Buddhist to me.

Striker: "As far as tranquillity is concerned, skepticism might do just as well, or, for that matter, drugs, since we are now not talking about how people actually live, but only about how they feel. But the suggestion that people might be made happy by an ample supply of drugs that would make them feel euphoric or calm looks repellent to us, and would no doubt have looked repellent to the ancient Greeks also."

Striker pegged my argument against the "experience machine" here, ...but I don't want to open that kettle of fermenting fish!