

Talking About Epicurus With Someone Who Is A Stoic (Or Of Some Other Anti-Epicurean Philosophy)

Post by “smoothiekiwi” of January 7, 2022 at 4:46 PM

Also, at least as far as I can judge, Stoicism is a very appealing philosophy. It promises glory and honor, but most of all virtue. When I think of Stoicism, I think of a knight in shivering armor, who charges into battle with complete calmness for the good cause. Or a Cato, fighting for the survival of the Republic. In either case, it has been immensely helpful for me to recognize that **my deeds will produce the suffering of other people**. A knight will kill people, and Cato voted against the distribution of land for the poor farmers. **Your virtue** doesn't **provide happiness for other people**.

And that means that by being virtuous yourself, you harm other people. Which is the complete opposite of virtue. I think that it can initiate a thought process if one shows this contradiction. And if the other person replies "well, that doesn't matter for me"... I don't think I would like to chat with that person, because then we have no common ground. A person who is numb to the sufferings of others isn't a person I want to chat with.