

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

Post by "Cassius" of January 8, 2022 at 12:43 PM

[Quote from smoothiekiwi](#)

These are words of a Sceptic, aren't they?

Actually no, I would not admit that. I would think a skeptic would ultimately say about everything "We just don't know and there is no right or wrong answer to anything."

I think Epicurus is taking exactly the opposite position, but he is being clear that there are some things we do know with certainty apply to everyone everywhere all the time (no supernatural gods; nothing eternal but matter and void; the soul does not survive the death of the body) but that there are some things that apply only on a local basis (I like chocolate; you like vanilla).

So I think it's pretty clear that Epicurus would encourage everyone to indeed feel their emotions as deeply as possible when they find something repulsive, and to act on those emotions, but that he would also so "Be sure that you realize what you're acting on is "local" to you, and don't make the mistake of thinking you're fighting for some kind of eternal truth established by supernatural gods or "eternal ideas" or intentional-acting Nature, because those things just don't exist.

I probably didn't need to type that though because I am confident you see where this is all going. NOT in an endorsement of any particular political position, but in the acknowledgement that we as beings of nature operate most successfully, even in political affairs, when we acknowledge the reality of nature and work within Nature and not against it.