

Epicurean Worldview, Personal Identity, and Creating Community

Post by "SimonC" of January 18, 2022 at 4:40 PM

I think the religious drive you describe is extremely common, the plethora of self-help / "become a stoic in 30 days" books is a testament to this.

How do you talk to people about Epicureanism? It's tricky.

You can't lead with hedonism or "live like a god" because of the suspicion pleasure is viewed with.

If you lead with the atomism or perception as basis of knowledge you will get agreement at least from the science types but it might be difficult to move on because they are still carrying unexamined Platonistic ideas and don't see the contradiction. "I agree the world is material but I want to believe in an afterlife".

For now I try not to teach my kids any nonsense. Perhaps one day Epicureanism will come back in a big way - maybe on the tail of some new neuroscience finding - but idealism is so very very deeply ingrained in our whole culture and institutions.