

2022 Epicurus vs Buddhism Compare and Contrast Thread

Post by “Matt” of January 27, 2022 at 4:53 PM

I could never get behind Buddhism. The Dhammapada is nice, but the Buddha’s insistence on there being reincarnation and actual practical examples of karma, such as a man’s house burning down or collapsing because he was not a good person, pretty much invalidated the majority philosophy for me.

I also just didn’t understand the concept of “anatta”...the supposed denial of the atman or soul in contrast to the atman in Hinduism and the jiva of Jainism. It seemed to me that the basis of some sort of continuity for reincarnation and karma to work, there would need to be some sort of element that carries the karmic deeds from life to the next...yet if anatta is true it seemed unlikely...if there is no atman or soul to carry the “scent” of the karma of a previous life to a new one, then what mechanism does? This was the main metaphysical issue I had...also the ambiguity of what the “blowing out” of nirvana actually entails, without it being a very ambiguous sort of non-differentiated passionless nothing.