

2022 Epicurus vs Buddhism Compare and Contrast Thread

Post by “Matt” of January 28, 2022 at 12:39 PM

The main issue I see with certain philosophies like Buddhism is that though they may trend toward being atheistic or agnostic, like Buddhism and Jainism, they are still rife with unsubstantiated metaphysical premises.

I think many western people see that the Buddha is a non-theistic path and especially if they are running from western Judeo-Christian traditions, they see the Buddha as an eastern sage offering an alternative path. But the reality is though that a monotheistic “God” is not material to Buddhism, there are plenty of unsubstantiated metaphysical premises that the philosophy is built upon...as @Nate said in his post, that Buddhism was one of many philosophical schools that all had very different ideas about life. From theistic Hindu schools like Sankhya yoga and Vedanta to the non-theistic Carvaka. But Buddhism’s middle way is still built upon the entirely unsubstantiated doctrine that karma is in fact an observable and measurable mechanism in the universe and that samsara continual reincarnation is also an observable process....again these are merely articles of faith as opposed to observable truths and frankly as articles of faith, they are as valid as the Christian idea of the resurrection and original sin. Because if samsara and the fear of perpetual reincarnation tied to bad karma WASN’T the main focus of the faith and philosophy, then the Buddha has nothing really unique to offer as a solution to get off the wheel of suffering and reincarnation...his entire system is dependent on an unfounded premise....that because of previous actions from time immemorial, you will be reborn again and again and again...until you extinguish your karmic flame.

It’s like going from one thing with metaphysical articles of faith to another one...just without God being a primary issue.