

# Compassion in Epicurean Philosophy

Post by “Cassius” of February 8, 2022 at 11:57 AM

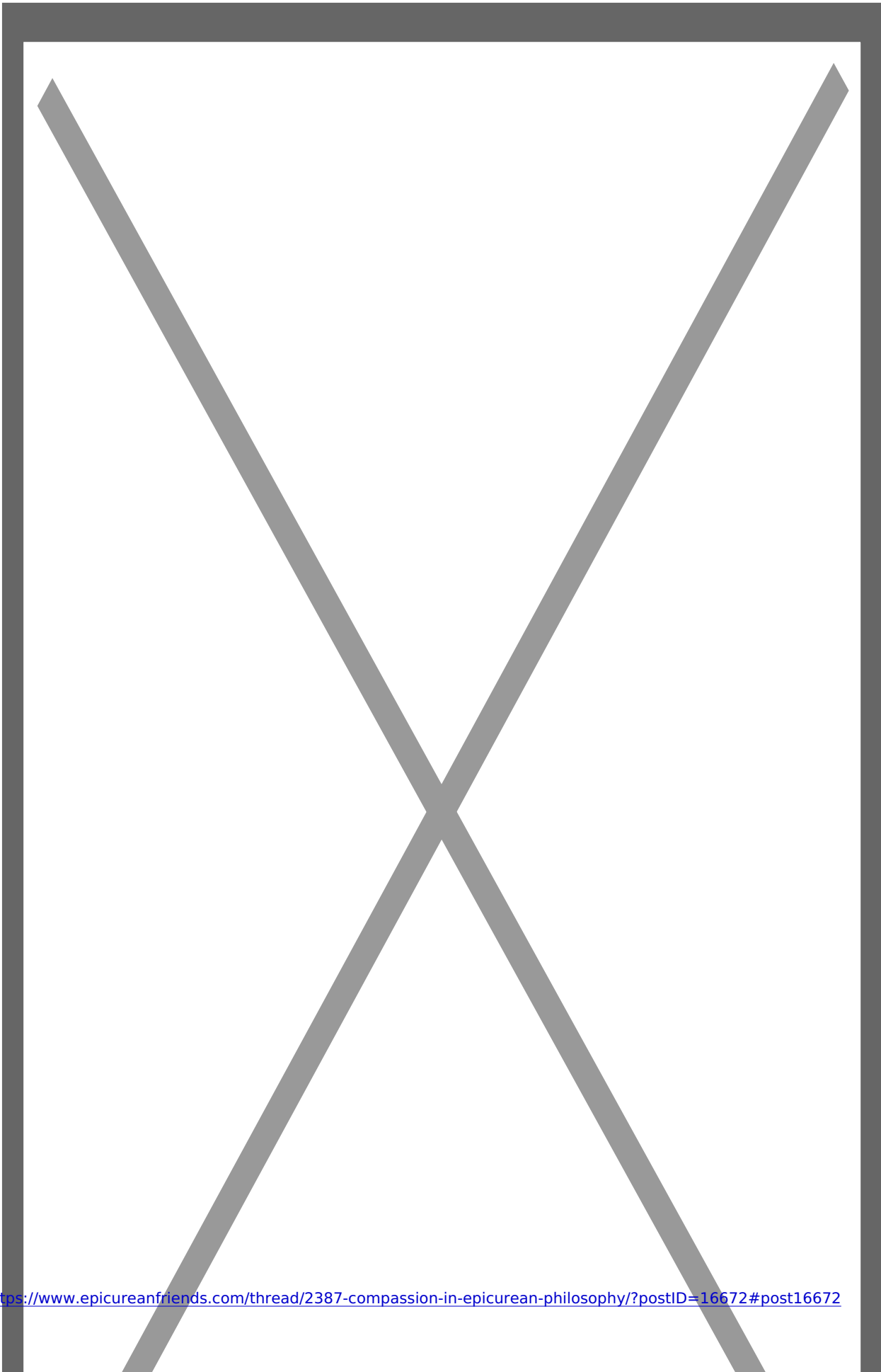
As to Pity. I suspect that what is going on here is that there are significant differences between "pity" and "compassion" even though we tend to use them interchangeably - or at least I do myself. After googling I see there are a lot of articles that allege a difference between the two, for example: <https://www.chopra.com/articles/the-d...assion-and-pity>

Again, this is all Nietzsche, but I seem to recall (or else this is my memory failing again) there are at least reflections of this in Aristotle:

“Pity preserves things that are ripe for decline, it defends things that have been disowned and condemned by life, and it gives a depressive and questionable character to life itself by keeping alive an abundance of failures of every type. People have dared to call pity a virtue... people have gone even further, making it into the virtue, the foundation and source of all virtues, - but of course you always have to keep in mind that this was the perspective of a nihilistic philosophy that inscribed the negation of life on its shield. Schopenhauer was right here: pity negates life, it makes life worthy of negation, - pity is the practice of nihilism. Once more: this depressive and contagious instinct runs counter to the instincts that preserve and enhance the value of life: by multiplying misery just as much as by conserving everything miserable, pity is one of the main tools used to increase decadence - pity wins people over to nothingness! ... You do not say ‘nothingness’ : instead you say ‘the beyond’; or ‘God’; or ‘the true life’; or nirvana, salvation, blessedness ... This innocent rhetoric from the realm of religious-moral idiosyncrasy suddenly appears much less innocent when you see precisely which tendencies are wrapped up inside these sublime words: tendencies hostile to life.”

— Friedrich Nietzsche, [The Anti-Christ](#)

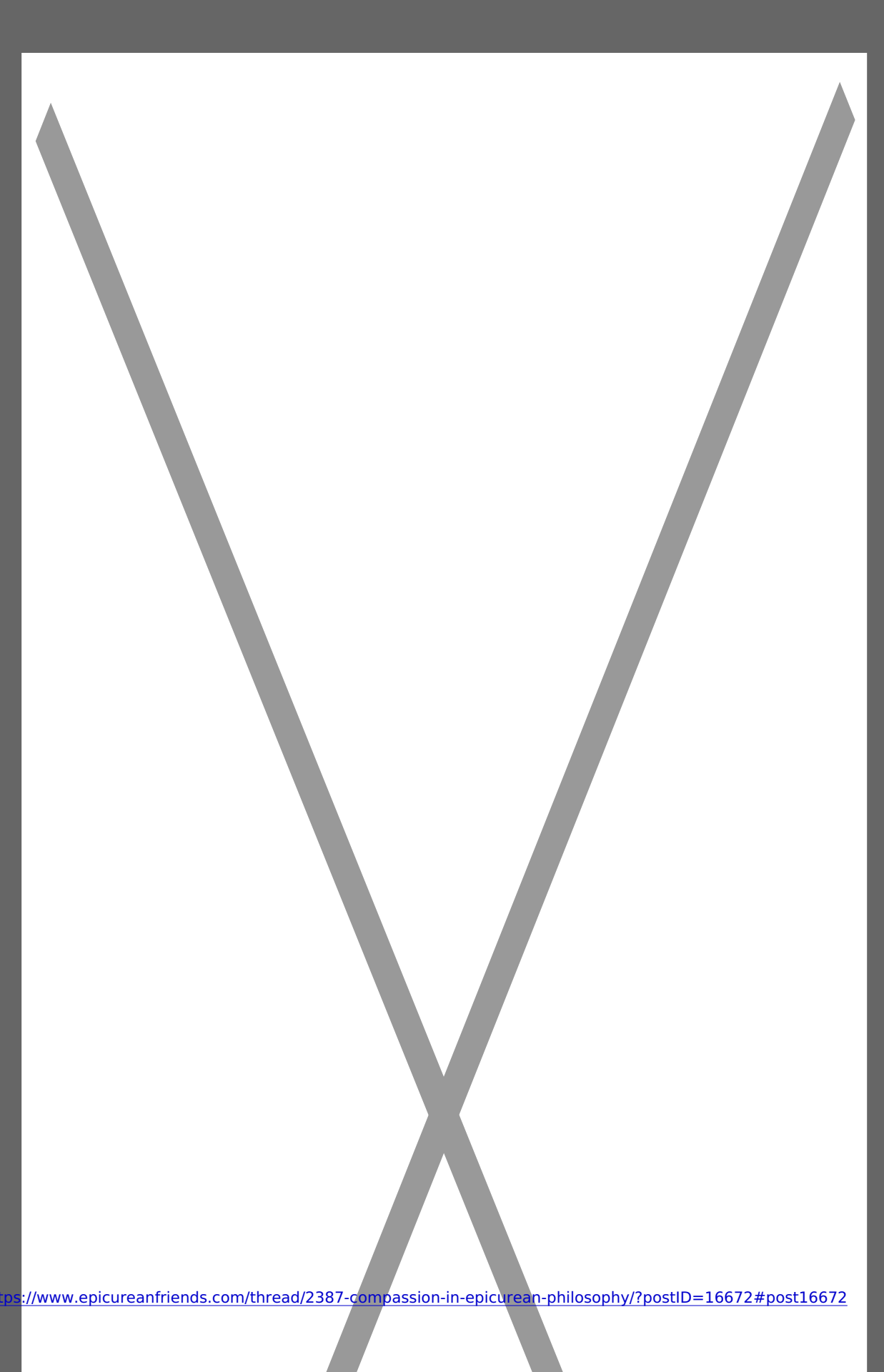
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### [Nietzsche on Pity](#)

Pity...is a depressant. A man loses power when he pities [and when he's pitied]. Through pity that drain upon strength which suffering works...  
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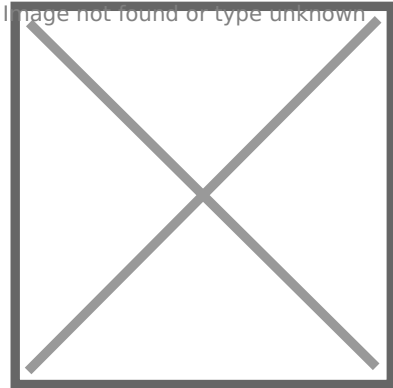
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### [Nietzsche on Pity](#)

Where are your greatest dangers? In pity.

medium.com



### [Nietzsche on pity and the death of God](#)

Christopher asked: Nietzsche is famous for stating that 'God is dead.' After reading Zarathustra I felt that what he meant by this statement is that because of...

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