

Episode One Hundred Ten - The Epicurean View of Friendship (Part 2)

Post by "Don" of February 23, 2022 at 7:03 PM

I mentioned this elsewhere on the forum, but I'll post here as well. To me, the role of friendship has evolved since Hellenistic times. I think that people were just as committed to their friends then as they are now. However, there was much more of a reliance on one's friends - one's philoi φίλοι - for one's well-being back then. There was no "social safety net" or institutions for elder care or hospitals. Without friends, you were up the proverbial creek. Friends are still today a necessary component of a pleasurable life but I'm not sure they fill the same life or death niche they did 2,000 years ago. I think that's one of the reasons why Epicurus and Torquatus et al. placed such a high importance on friendship in the texts.