

AFDIA -Chapter Fourteen - Text and Discussion

Post by "Cassius" of May 1, 2022 at 4:30 PM

Chapter 14 is as deep as Chapter 13 is short. We will spend as much time talking about the details in one session as we can. One line however that I don't want to forget to highlight is this one, spoken by Epicurus to Theon:

"But as respects your defense of my philosophy, I am sorry that you presumed so much, where you knew so little."

If that doesn't summarize the state of the majority of modern discussion about Epicurus on the internet today, I don't know what does! 😊

I hope that our book review, and EpicureanFriends.com, and our other efforts are small advances along the way in educating the Theons of today, who think that Epicurean philosophy is about nothing more than being gracious and smiling and "pursuing happiness," will come to understand that this statement given by "Epicurus" applies today as much as it did when delivered to Theon.

So in this chapter, we dive into deep issues such as whether an opinion can ever be morally good or morally evil, how the evidence of the senses should be used as the basis of all our opinions, and - as one of the biggest issues of the chapter - how the evidence provided by the principle of "isonomia" (existence along a spectrum from low to high) and the principle that "nature never makes a single thing of a kind" - though neither principle is named here explicitly) provide the evidence for Epicurus asserting the existence of a type of god, but not the existence of a specific god.