

Welcome Beasain!

Post by “beasain” of June 6, 2022 at 12:14 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

I don't know enough about Hegelian philosophy, but this question is interesting to me. I tend to focus mostly on the ethics of Epicureanism, and I would say that it is a very subtle teaching that not everyone can understand. Not only does it require a certain ability to critically think, but it requires one to think outside the box of Western civilization and the abstractions of thinking which come down from Platonic philosophy, and which have been reinforced and continue to be reinforced by Christianity.

Yes, I completely agree and epicurism makes me think of a kind of Western local form of Buddhism (There were for sure strong contacts with India in the Hellenic World), but this is not what I want to focus on now. Let's go back to Hegel and the German idealistic philosophy of Hegel. Nothing is better than going to the sources, Hegel's Lectures on the History of Philosophy Part One: Greek Philosophy. Section Two B. Epicurus: <https://www.marxists.org/reference/arch...hp/hpepicur.htm>

Hegel demonstrates in my humble opinion that he doesn't understand (or rather wants to understand) most of Epicurus' work, although he sees something in Epicurus' ethics and some parts are even interesting. But he doesn't mention Lucretius (and not because he was unknown to him; Goethe e.g. for instance was fond of Lucretius). With the perspective of two centuries, Hegel's rejection of atomism is a bit embarrassing, but his History seems to have been very influential and seems still to influence curricula in the Philosophy Departments (I often wonder if philosophy professors are able to think out of the box 😊, they seem often so dogmatic to me as an outsider).

Another interesting source is the article of James I Porter, "Epicurus in Nineteenth-Century Germany: Hegel Marx and Nietzsche" from the Oxford Handbook of Epicurus and Epicureanism (2020) (costs about 140\$, but individual articles can sometimes be found in Academia.com): https://www.academia.edu/43798550/Epicu...x_and_Nietzsche (page 3-7 is about Hegel's vision).

The article is also very interesting for the views of Marx and Nietzsche. I think it is worth to be well studied. It comments also in a critical way some apparent flaws in the reasoning of Epicurus and illuminate some of Hegel's critiques (or at least in the few materials of his work that pure luck brought to us). All good excuses to learn more about the works of Epicurus 😊.