

Differences between Epicureanism and Cyrenaicism

Post by "Cassius" of September 1, 2022 at 4:33 PM

Yes a table of comparisons would be good, especially if it would help us prioritize the differences in order of importance.

I have always considered the "Cyreniacs want pleasure NOW" difference to be overstated - I would have to think that if they were here to defend themselves we would find that that allegation is an oversimplification and that they would have an answer for the criticism.

More to the point is that I would gather than being closer to Socrates, they were probably more theistic and not at all into the atomism that forms the basis of the Epicurean affirmation that there is no supernatural realm and no life after death. Where the Cyreniacs stood on epistemology is also something of a mystery.

It's impossible for me to believe that Epicurus was taking a step "backward" into any form of asceticism. More likely, he was developing and extending the arguments against other Socratic/Platonic positions, while keeping the emphasis on pleasure and pain as the guides of nature, and extending the emphasis to ALL kinds of pleasure and pain, including mental as at least as significant as physical pain and pleasure.