

# Is Epicurean life achievable only for well off?

Post by "Joshua" of September 19, 2022 at 3:38 PM

Quote

After all, much of religion has historically been used to create contentment in misery.

It's outside the general scope of this forum, but worth noting in passing that this was the essence of Marx's critique of religion in the introduction to his *Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*. (And because this is the internet, I now have to clarify that I'm not taking a Marxist possession, but describing one...)

My more specific answer to your question is that it is certainly achievable to derive something worthwhile from Epicureanism for those of little means, though it won't solve their tangible economic problems. I say "something worthwhile" because Epicurus said (and I'm paraphrasing) that unlike other pursuits, which give pleasure only after much difficulty, the study of philosophy gives pleasure and alleviates suffering *while* you're "doing" it, and not exclusively *after* you've "achieved" it.