

An Epicurean Study of Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics

Post by "Cassius" of October 19, 2022 at 3:57 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Aristotle has been this all-powerful bugaboo of Western Civilization, I expected to be in awe or something.

Which is exactly the message that is drummed into the minds of anyone who reads the work of Ayn Rand and her supporters. "Underwhelming" is the best way to describe my reaction to the Aristotle I have read. I presume (or hope) that in context and in the original he was better. And he seems to have pushed back against Plato and deserves a lot of credit for that. But is he worth being held up as the paragon of Western thought? I can't see that at all.

My opinion of Socrates is a ditto as well. Many of the other philosophers listed by Diogenes Laertius seem to have been just as sharp, and much more helpful, than this Socrates-Plato-Aristotle axis that we are supposed to worship as the best the west has to offer.