

Episode One Hundred Forty-Seven - "Epicurus And His Philosophy" Part 03 - True Opinions And False Opinions About Epicurus

Post by "Don" of November 10, 2022 at 10:26 AM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Onenski brought up the question of: Can you be certain about some things and what can you be dogmatic about in Epicureanism?

[Quote from Don](#)

On the "dogmatic" discussion, this goes back in part to Diogenes Laertius' characteristics of the sage:

<https://sites.google.com/view/epicurean...remain-in-doubt>

The two key words are:

Epicureans will δογματιεῖν and not ἀπορήσειν.

δογματιεῖν dogmatiein

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...%3Ddogmati%2Fzw>

ἀπορήσειν aporēsein

[http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...y%3Da\)pore%2Fw2](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...y%3Da)pore%2Fw2)

So, my perspective has always been (similar to what [Cassius](#) was saying) that the Epicurean sage (or Epicureans in general) would take a position and lay down an opinion (δογματιεῖν) and will not remain puzzled or "skeptical" of everything (ἀπορήσειν)

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Sorry to repeat myself, but I think this bears repeating. From my perspective, the "dogmatic" assertions of the Epicureans are more about being willing to take a position in opposition to the skepticism of the Academy or Skeptics or Cynics. The Epicureans say we *can* know something! That doesn't negate the holding off on an opinion until evidence is available. That's my interpretation of Diogenes Laertius's characteristics of the Epicureans. As for Cicero's jabbing the Epicurean speaker about his confident manner, I think that's just Cicero being Cicero.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2727-episode-one-hundred-forty-seven-epicurus-and-his-philosophy-part-03-true-opinion/?postID=20527#post20527>