

An Epicurean "Sanity Check"

Post by "Matt" of February 4, 2019 at 10:04 AM

So my only thought is this in regard to solitude, isolation and ascetic practice.

Even if Epicurus did not endorse this behavior, there will always be a type of person who, no matter what philosophy or religion, will attempt to be alone and away from the crowd.

I think there can come a point when a (certain type) of person can reach the summit of their practice and find themselves already intellectually isolated and alone even in the crowd. They may choose to stay in solitude among the crowd and try to teach those around them, or conversely they go into isolation away from the crowd to live their life in peace.

But it's a totally different idea than prescribed asceticism or hermitage. This is just like water seeking its lowest point, the wisest become separated mentally from the crowd whether they choose to or not. The only choice is to stay and cultivate those around them or cut and run to sanctuary.