

Did Epicurus Commit Suicide Due To His Disease? (Merger of Two Threads On When Voluntary Death Makes Sense)

Post by "Don" of December 8, 2022 at 6:53 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I never thought we were far apart on this and after further discussion I feel sure of it

On the actual topic of suicide, I would agree. I think we both understand someone's (maybe even my own) decision to take that step in the extreme of pain and suffering. I think that's a humane and humble position to have.

That said, I don't necessarily think that's a position that Epicurus or the Epicurean school would take. I don't see textual evidence of that position. We can rationalize that they might have taken it, but I'm not seeing textual evidence of it.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

There are not really any Ideal forms or essences of "Epicureans," only individual people who claim to more or less apply Epicurean views in their lives - and no matter how many doctrines we add or subtract from a person there is no essence or ideal form of an Epicurean for us to justify our labelling, or any moment when an Epicurean ceases to be an Epicurean due to a loss of sufficient Epicurean elements.

Hmmm... Well, under that definition of "Epicurean," it seems to me that I could call myself a "Christian" if I want to. There have to be some Epicurean criteria or some "essential" (I don't like the word but I'll use it) doctrines by which one lives their life to be considered an Epicurean. Otherwise the word has no meaning.

I wasn't saying that Cassius Longinus wasn't an Epicurean. In fact, I said he was an Epicurean. I'm saying his decision to kill himself was in keeping with his heritage and upbringing as to what it meant to be a Roman citizen in a military setting. He could be both things. I would even go so far as to posit that him laying down his life in a manner befitting a Roman may even have given him pleasure in the end. He determined he would die *as a Roman* and not as some kind of captured criminal or slave.