

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 8:40 PM

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

we try to apply Epicurean teachings to better our lives

And...Right there. 😊 I'd ask what "Epicurean teachings" are you trying to apply to better your life. If you're trying to apply Epicurus's teachings to better your life, that makes you an Epicurean as opposed to a Christian or Stoic or something else.

I'll be the first to say unequivocally that there is no "apostolic" Epicurean lineage, there is no Epicurean scholar determining Orthodox practices. But, if someone wants to think of themselves as an Epicurean and part of a larger Garden community, there has to be some shared principles and practices. I also grant it's a wide net but the net cannot be so huge that it means nothing to say "I'm an Epicurean." Otherwise, it means nothing and Epicurus at least taught that words have to have a commonly understood meaning otherwise communication is impossible.

There is also a difference between implementing a smorgasbord or cafeteria of practices into one's life and picking a single path. Both can need done. There are Jewish Buddhists out there. But, from my perspective, if someone wants to think of themselves as an Epicurean, they have to share some principles and practices with other "Epicureans" for that word to have meaning.