

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

Post by “Pacatus” of December 8, 2022 at 11:44 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

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.

And if we could stop there, we'd be in perfect agreement. But - ☐☐

[Quote from Don](#)

I'd ask what "Epicurean teachings" are you trying to apply to better your life.

Do you have an “acceptable” list? (Otherwise, why would you ask?) And why should I accept (in toto) whatever list you (or anyone else) might have?

That whole “TM” thing comes out of engagement with Christians (when I thought of myself as a Christian) who claimed that - because there were certain tenets of *theirs* that I did not accept - I really *could not be* a “True Christian™” (the “TM” was not, of course, theirs - but my own snarky reaction). Today, whether I was or wasn't a “True Christian™” is of no consequence to me - except as a point of **sincerity**. And that is not a trivial point ...

I generally think of myself as a neo-Epicurean (though I don't fit any of Cassius' differentiating points in his chart - so maybe I'm not so “neo”) just because I subscribe to updating the knowledge base that was available to Epicurus (and the Stoics and the Pyrrhonians) in light of advancements in things like logic, epistemology and science.

So, at bottom, I think that word “sincerity” might hold some gravitas in the matter. I'm sure (sincerely) that when you were a Buddhist you were very honest and sincere about that. You found a different path - does that mean you were never a “True Buddhist™”? ☐☐ Or that you were not honest and sincere? Of course not.

EDIT: If at some point I decide that I am not fundamentally Epicurean, for whatever reason, I will be honest enough to simply say so. And, just as honestly, wish all my Epicurean friends well -- and gratitude. I don't envision that, but a lot of things have happened in my life that I never envisioned ...