

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

Post by "Don" of December 9, 2022 at 2:48 PM

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

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?

[Pacatus](#) : Let me start this response by saying that I certainly did not mean to offend or disrespect or belittle anyone's self-designation as an "Epicurean." Honestly, when I said:

Quote from @Don

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

I sincerely meant to make that rhetorical as in "What Epicurean teachings are you putting into practice that make you feel like you would *want* to call yourself an 'Epicurean'?" I wasn't trying to impose *my* criteria, and if it came off that way, I apologize. *I* may have other practices or doctrines on which I place more emphasis than you.

BUT, from my perspective, if we all "lay our cards on the table," I would offer that there have to be some common "cards" in each of our hands to make us feel we want to be part of the same community, that would lead us to come together in the same Garden. Otherwise, the word "Epicurean" doesn't apply to anything.

And I get your...

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

I confess that any perceived hint of defining a "party line" that I must, no matter what, affirm or adhere to in order to be a "True™" anything triggers a visceral unease in me

I've seen examples of "party lines" and "orthodoxy" and in-fighting, etc. So I can understand your "visceral unease". There's also the idea of commitments, participation, etc., if you want to be seen as "serious" (which, honestly, is one reason I've kept my participation to online meetings primarily to the 20th. The idea of regular commitments makes *me* uneasy.) I think it is absolutely *wonderful* that Cassius and Kalosyni have made those opportunities a reality!!! I just can't make myself take on the "responsibility" (in my mind) to show up every time, and so

I've decided I'll do my best to make the 20th's in keeping with what I see as part of *my* Epicurean identity 😊

P.S. In some sense, we are *all* neo-Epicureans. We're all doing the best we can with the texts that we have to try to follow (and, in some cases - like quantum physics - update) the 2,000+ year old teachings of Epicurus to make sense of our lives and to provide ourselves with a way to make sense of the world. Like I said previously, there is no apostolic succession from Epicurus to the present like the Popes (although their lineage is arguably tenuous). There is no Epicurean authority imposing dogma or creeds or orthodoxy. By Zeus, even online and internationally, there are several Epicurean groups, and none of them have authority over any other one. My only assertion was that those of us who like to think of ourselves as Epicureans most likely have some shared ideas that join us together.