

The Twelve Fundamentals - Discussion on Lucretius Today Podcast

Post by “Cassius” of January 3, 2023 at 4:18 PM

Did you guys read Donald Robertson's reply? I will save you the effort as this is the conclusion:

Quote from Donald Robertson

Overall, I would say that the literature of ancient Stoicism suggests that Marcus Aurelius and perhaps also Epictetus believed that agnosticism or even atheism may have been consistent with the Stoic way of life. What I haven't attempted to do here is to argue at length for the philosophical consistency of an agnostic (or atheistic) form of Stoicism. However, in this regard, I would begin by pointing to the argument that the central principle of Stoicism, that the only true good is wisdom (the cardinal human virtue or excellence), acceptance of which arguably does not require belief in God, and from which other Stoic principles may derive without the need for belief in God as an additional premise.

I see this as totally and transparently unsatisfactory. Why is wisdom a good?

And he doesn't even see the need to argue for philosophical consistency?