

Epicurean Verse For When You're Feeling...

Post by "Cassius" of March 9, 2023 at 1:48 PM

Yes I agree that is a good test. I would say that any saying which might arguably be interpreted as leaning in a flat "commandment" direction (and I am not sure there are really any at all) would appear to do so (if they do) only by virtue of lacking context from the original setting.

For example "live unknown" as a flat statement would appear to be a flat "commandment" that on its face would override any other consideration. However we know both (1) from the wider view of the philosophy that Epicurus did not work that way - as if context did not matter, and (2) we don't have the full context of a statement from Epicurus himself actually saying that.

There are good references and arguments in support of this observation -- of how the ethical doctrines are contextual -- in the article recently posted here from [Jeffrey Fish - \(Not All Politicians Are Sisyphus\)](#).