

Nihilism and Turgenev's novel "Fathers and Sons"

Post by "Cassius" of April 20, 2023 at 6:32 AM

That's a good reminder of the need to pay attention to words and how they are understood:

Nihilist redirects here. For other uses, see nihilist (disambiguation).

Nihilism (/ˈnaɪ(h)ɪlɪzəm, ˈniː-l/; from Latin *nihil* 'nothing') is a **philosophy**, or family of views within philosophy, that rejects generally accepted or fundamental aspects of human existence,^{[1][2]} such as objective truth, knowledge, morality, values, or meaning.^{[3][4]} The term was popularized by Ivan Turgenev, and more specifically by his character Bazarov in the novel *Fathers and Sons*.

To the extent the "truth" being opposed is held to be truth solely because it is "accepted" - Epicurus clearly would come under that heading, but on the other hand to the extent "truth" is denied because there is nothing fundamental, or that knowledge or morality or value or meaning are impossible, he clearly would not.

We always have to be careful to be sure that we are being understood clearly.