

New Work of Historical Fiction With Epicurean Connections by Christian Luchini - "The Posillipo Enigma"

Post by "Cassius" of June 29, 2023 at 8:43 AM

There is a recent post at Facebook with comments on Cristiano's interview with Tim OKeefe and a Vedanta advocate.

Thanks very much to those who commented especially the extended remarks by Elli and by Matt.

Here are a couple of highlights:

Matt Jax

Unfortunately, I cannot listen to the podcast right now due to my work browser blocking it. Interestingly enough, Vedanta was one of the original philosophies that I studied (and accepted for many years) when I first began my philosophical journey. A copy of the Upanishads and Prabhupada's sectarian Bhagavad-Gita As It Is...were my first textual introduction to philosophy. I will say that I sought out these Eastern philosophies due to my dissatisfaction with Christianity surrounding the death of a loved one. Vedanta painted a very specific worldview that was in many ways alien and foreign, and in some ways similar to what I was used to. The ideas of maya, moksha, dharma, karma etc. were unknown to me...as was Krishna, the avatara of Maha-Vishnu the Saguna Brahman...but it wasn't too long after spending years engaged with this, I realized there were obvious connections to Greek philosophy in Neoplatonism and Stoicism. It is even possible that the founder of Neoplatonism, Plotinus, may have been significantly influenced by Indian philosophy and even had a possibly Indian mentor Ammonius Saccas (Sakya) in Alexandrian Egypt.

I do really want to listen to this because I cannot think of two more diametrically different philosophies. Epicurean philosophy would appear to be the antithesis of Vedanta in nearly all ways. From the idea that Epicurus posits the senses are "true" and that the Universe does not operate under the visage of an ordered intelligence and the gods are apathetic to human affairs, Vedanta posits that the universe is under the guidance of providence (and in fact God is the ground of all things) and that reality is an illusion. Epicurus posits that the "soul" dissolves at death, Vedanta posits that it's eternal. Epicurus tells us to trust our senses and hedonic calculus, Vedanta tells us to abandon the senses and embrace bhakti/jnana yoga or discipline. I cannot think of two more different philosophies!

I can't imagine there were too many commonalities. page not found or type unknown

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3085-new-work-of-historical-fiction-with-epicurean-connections-by-christian-luchini-t/?postID=24743#post24743>

Cristiano Luchini Author

Matt Jax Try to listen here on Spotify : <https://open.spotify.com/episode/1JInuSzu7XJlvj8B6rklgo...> . Listening to Prof. O'Keefe will help you clarify so many aspects of Epicureanism that escape many people . . Above all the pursuit of pleasure, hedonism, which is something absolutely nonexistent in Epicurus' thought. Pleasure as understood by him is the absence of pain, not the pleasure of the senses. Pleasure is cultivating the virtues so as to be serene and live a pleasant life.

"It is impossible to live well without living sensibly, nobly and justly; and it is impossible to live sensibly, nobly and justly without living pleasantly."

(Epicurus, Letter to Menoeceus)

I am sure that after listening to the podcast, you will have clearer ideas about both Vedanta and Epicureanism. You will listen to those who know better.

Matt Jax Ok! I had a chance to listen to the podcast and I am now able to speak on it...

Yes, both philosophies are mutually exclusive.

Someone speaking about Vedanta will surely find a counterpoint in another philosophy, such as Neoplatonism...but as for Epicurean philosophy, it is a very different situation.

τὸ ὑφ' ἑσθηκὸς δεῖ τέλος ἐπιλογίζεσθαι καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν ἐνάργειαν, ἐφ' ἣν τὰ δοξαζόμενα ἀνάγομεν· εἰ δὲ μὴ πάντα ἀκρισίας καὶ ταραχῆς ἔσται μεστὰ.

KD. 22

Epicurus says we must focus on the fundamental goal...that is living a pleasurable life and studying nature... to be able to find that serenity that is sought after. Otherwise we will find nothing but confusion. If our observations and philosophical conclusions are not aligned...we will have significant dissatisfaction. This is why it's important to have a strong understanding of Epicurean Physics, so as to remove any doubts about what Nature is composed of. If for example I accept Vedanta, I accept an idealistic principle that posits that Nature is not quite what it seems and illusory. This type of thinking is VERY helpful for someone positing that God or Brahman is the ground of reality and we are all part of a cosmic play or dance....and even we are Brahman as well. But what good is believing that the world is an illusion? How does that alleviate any fears of the unknown?

Epicurus wants us to study nature for what it is...and having a full understanding of it, helps us make decisions to lead a happy life.

[Epicurean Philosophy | A Dialogue Between Vedanta and Epicureanism](#)

A Dialogue Between Vedanta and Epicureanism. Uncovering Commonalities Between Two Ancient Philosophies. #Podcast with Dr Jayashankar Krishnamurthy, Director...
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