

Practical Tips On Cultivation of Friendship in the Modern World

Post by “Randall Moose” of August 3, 2023 at 2:37 AM

One of my favorite Epicurean quotes is Vatican Saying 52, "Friendship dances around the world, bidding us all to awaken to the recognition of happiness."

It would seem strange to me if someone said they studied Epicurus and that they have no friends. However, I would believe someone if they said that they have no friends that study Epicurus.

With that said, I think it is wise to make friends with purposes besides studying philosophy or creating gardens.

Quoting The Epicurus Reader, Testimony of Cicero, page 64, "So they say that people first meet, pair up, and desire to form associations for the sake of pleasure, but that when increasing experience [of each other] has produced the sense of personal bond, then love flowers to such a degree that even if there is no utility to be gained from the friendship the friends themselves are still loved for their own sake. Indeed, if we typically come to love certain locations, temples, cities, gymnasia, playing fields, dogs, horses, public games (whether with gladiators or animals) just because of familiarity, how much easier and more fitting is it for this to happen in the case of human familiarity?"