

My struggle with Norman DeWitt

Post by "Kalosyni" of August 25, 2023 at 11:20 AM

[Quote from waterholic](#)

2. The description of Epicurus as quite a despotic figure with a strong will to dominate feeble minded and expand his influence by any means necessary, including missionary work.

The origin of this is from Martha Nussbaum?

[Quote from Cassius](#)

(2) the issue of "dogmatism" vs "skepticism" in Epicurus is definitely there, and dedicated skeptics are definitely going to have a problem with Epicurus.

When reading and studying the Epicurean maxims, there are two ways to "listen" to them:

1) as if they were a kind of "ultimatum" and "absolute" (this is an incorrect way in my opinion).

-or-

2) something to contemplate and to apply as needed in the manner of a "medicine" or a therapeutic -- for example, "[death is nothing to us](#)" is not some kind of "absolute truth" but a way of thinking after applying reason...and likewise for other maxims.

[Quote from waterholic](#)

1. A frequent parallel or comparison with Christianity

I do not like this aspect of DeWitt myself, and I know that there are others here on the forum who also feel the same way.

[Quote from waterholic](#)

I have been reading the book very slowly and I suddenly realised that if this had been my first introduction to the philosophy of Epicurus, I might have given it a pass

I personally think that it is intermediate/advanced reading, because it seems to me that you need to know a little bit already (and it's for people who have time for reading long and "wordy" explanations).

As a study method, I personally think sticking with studying and discussing the extant texts is the best way to go for both beginning and intermediate students of Epicurus.