

Would You Rather Live For A Week As (1) Epicurus During the Last Week of His Life or (2) An Anonymous Shepherd Laying In The Grass In The Summertime With No Pain At All?

Post by "Pacatus" of September 9, 2023 at 3:49 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

But is he knowledgeable about philosophy? Can someone be happy without philosophy? Is happiness also relative? As the saying goes, "If ignorance is bliss is the shepherd living in a constant state of ecstasy?"

Depends on how one thinks of philosophy: as an intellectual pursuit (at whatever level), or a required body of knowledge (e.g. the Canon) – or as a way of living one's daily life. If the latter, I see no reason why the shepherd – or myself, with less desire to pursue the intellectual stream and a greater desire (at my age) to live each day as well as can be (pleasure and pleasantness) – cannot live an Epicurean life. (Of course, I have been helped much by the philosophical knowledge that is represented here!)

So, I'll take the hypothetical as given (applying my own imagination to the question) and choose the shepherd (also for the reasons that @Nate gave).

Stepping outside the hypothetical, I'll choose my own life (with all its vagaries, struggles, errors and even regrets). And be grateful to Epicurus – and friends here – for the insights that help me along.