

# Episode 191 - Cicero's On Ends - Book One - Part 02

Post by "Don" of September 16, 2023 at 7:50 AM

Not having read Wright, that quote above is very helpful! I'm obviously biased, but the character seems to have a point, especially in relation to Epicurus's philosophy.

Epicurus's whole point was to get rid of the indoctrination imposed by society and culture and reveal and practice the faculties provided by nature, use pleasure and pain as guides to living. Rejection of that indoctrination could conceivably occur naturally.

I've liked Ricky Gervais' take on science vs religion on Stephen Colbert (fast forward video to 3:40)

<https://youtu.be/P5ZOwNK6n9U?feature=shared>

Again, I may be biased, but I could see something like Epicurus's philosophical path be recreated after everything was destroyed because in many ways he's relying on biology, psychology, physics, cosmology, etc (at least at the understanding he could have in 3rd c BCE Greece) to build the path he offered. I could see an alien Epicurus coming up with a similar path light years away, let's call them Surucipe. All biological organisms will have to experience pleasure and pain to exist. That's the first building block of the philosophy. Some details of Surucipeanism would differ from Epicureanism but they could still posit atoms, see the value in pleasure (what Surucipe calls positive affect), etc. I sincerely doubt anything resembling Christianity, Judaism, Islam, would exist in Surucipe's world, maybe some form of Buddhism with its concentration on consciousness and awareness (not the Tibetan variety but a basic early form). But this is the kind of thought experiment I can get behind 😊