

Epicurean Perspectives on Cultural Conflict

Post by "Cassius" of March 27, 2019 at 9:19 PM

Thank you for the detailed reply, Oscar.

Largely I'll just repeat my view from earlier, that I think in an atomistic universe where different people have different experiences, and where there is no absolute justice, then it is important that we - as you indicated earlier - not overgeneralize.

One of the important lessons I think from Epicurus is that your experiences and observations and feelings are valid for you, which the experiences and observations and feelings of others are valid for them.

In your experience you have had primarily pleasant dealings with your islamic neighbor. Other people in other situations are known to exist who cannot or will not say the same. Your conclusions have worked out for you, and likewise others who take a different view will say that their conclusions are valid for them.

It would not only not solve anything to compare the different sets of experiences and argue that one is superior, but I would go further and say that it would not be sound Epicurean philosophy. Raising one set of experiences in a matter such as this and abstracting it so as to say that one position or the other should be universal, would I think contradict the Epicurean worldview. Only if there were Fate or a Supernatural god would we be able to say that one set of preferences is "wrong" and another is right.

As I struggle to interpret and apply Epicurean principles such as the last ten [Principal Doctrines](#), each of which is based on an understanding that there is no absolute justice, I don't think the direction it points could lead in any other direction.