

The dangers of dialectical logic

Post by “Lowri834” of November 19, 2023 at 8:56 PM

I looked at this recently when I was poking at the Forum Navigation Map. I started with the wikipedia definition of Dialectic - "[dialogue](#) between people holding different [points of view](#) about a subject but wishing to arrive at the [truth](#) through [reasoned argumentation](#)." It also notes ""dialectic" owes much of its prestige to its role in the philosophies of [Socrates](#) and [Plato](#)". So it's not surprising that Epicurus rejects a major tool of philosophers he disagreed with. Also as I work through Cicero's On Ends through the podcast it's easy to see how this method can be abused since it allows the author to argue both sides, control what information is included and what's not and present false information. Dialectic logic is not like the forms of logic/reason I learned in school - proofs, induction etc. or that I think we use in daily life such pros and cons or analogy or cause and effect. What I can recall of Epicurus' view is several references to being wise and the end of the Letter to Pythocles, "give yourself up to the study of....and also of the criteria of truth and of the feelings, and of the purpose for which we reason out these things."

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