

Please, no dogmatism, no absolute truths

Post by "Hiram" of April 1, 2019 at 12:02 PM

[Quote from michelepinto](#)

The Italian word "dogma" means: "Principle that is accepted as true or just, without critical examination or discussion: proclaim a dogma: in Catholic theology, truth revealed by God or defined by the Church as such, imposed on believers as an article of faith."

In English the meaning is: "A principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true."

Epicurus said that the sage would be a dogmatist (in the English meaning, as we have nothing to do with the Catholic faith).

The very first thing said in Epicurus' epistle to Herodotus is to make sure that words correspond to things clearly observed in nature. We can't use "dogmatism" the way that Catholics and other Platonic, superstitious sects use it. We have to (re-)define words according to nature, and this was done time and again by the founders of EP.

This is because the entire system is **based on the study of nature**, like science but in the realm of philosophy so as to include ethics. **The Nature of things has real, inescapable repercussions on human happiness.**

So that (while the God issue is a fair one to question, and I'm one who does), we do have reason to claim many truths if we use the canon (the senses and faculties) and the methods and checks and balances provided to us by nature itself. So we are dogmatists in the philosophical sense, because **we are based firmly on the study of nature--which is to say, reality**. While there's no need to be arrogant, we do believe people should philosophize with their feet on the ground 😊