

Did Epicurus Advise Marriage or Not? Diogenes Laertius Text Difficulty

Post by “Cassius” of January 28, 2024 at 2:31 PM

Lots of good research there, thank you Pacatus!

None of it changes my view that Epicurus was not a dictator and did not forbid or grant allowances on much of anything (except presumably deference to philosophical core issues, and this would certainly not be among those).

Further, I am more convinced than ever at this point in my studying that Epicurus was extremely practical and did not have absolute right and wrong bright lines on most any kind of action, and most any kind of action may be needed depending on circumstances, even engagement in the "political" world as needed. So given his flexibility toward even the virtues II would have expected him to see marriage as no more mandatory or forbidden as a general rule. and just as Lucretius ends Book 4, habit and long standing benefit can render even the unpredictable institution of matrimony as something from which the wise can benefit, if the appropriate spouse is available.