

Epicureanism as the spiritual essence or 'religion' of an entire community

Post by “Pacatus” of February 9, 2024 at 8:32 PM

[Quote from Nate](#)

Why are we so uncomfortable with words that Christians have appropriated?

I can only answer for myself, Nate. Sometimes, I can, fairly readily, re-translate; sometimes with a bit of labor that seems worthwhile. But, sometimes, it seems an arduous process (for me) that I just don't need to engage in - effort better spent elsewhere.

An old example: When I was a Christian, I used to argue with other Christians about the meaning of the word “sin” - which, neither in the Hebrew nor the Greek, meant “evil” or “immoral.” It meant error, a missing of the mark - sometimes due to personal fault, sometimes just not. The notion that “sin” was something worthy of just retributive punishment (eternal condemnation in hell) - as opposed to some form of restorative/remedial justice - seemed just daft to me: an aberrational understanding grafted onto the word. But, at some point, it seemed that I was just pounding my head on a wall - and, since leaving the fold, I have no need to consider the word further. Kudos to those who are still fighting the good fight.

Kudos to those who are still fighting the good fight over such things outside that Christian context, with other words. Kudos to you on that score (and others, like Don). But sometimes, my own baggage is such that I don't feel the need. Better for me to move on.