

What Epicurus Offers To The Modern World As Of April, 2024?

Post by "Eikadistes" of April 24, 2024 at 6:11 PM

- *Don't you have to be rich to be an Epicurean?*

Not at all. The Notorious B.I.G. said, *Mo Money, Mo Problems*, and Epicurus would have agreed. As Lennon-McCartney wrote, "I don't care too much for money, 'cause money can't buy me love." And as Epicurus, himself wrote, "Poverty, when measured by the natural purpose of life, is great wealth, but unlimited wealth is great poverty" (VS 25).

- *Epicureanism doesn't offer anything "positive" like Stoicism or Buddhism offers. What do you offer to compete with those?*

Epicurean Philosophy offers freedom. It champions choice and rejects fate. It liberates us from turmoil by rejecting superstition. It offers a worldview that recognizes friendship as the greatest pleasure in life, and also, our surest source of security.

- *What if your life isn't "together" and you don't have time to read philosophy? Why would someone like that spending any time discussing Epicurus?*

There is no better time than now to prioritize the pursuit of happiness, "for no man can ever find the time unsuitable or too late to study the health of his soul." (Ep. Men. 122).

Life can be excruciating sometimes, but to enjoy true happiness, "We must laugh and philosophize at the same time, and do our household duties, and employ our other faculties, and never cease proclaiming the sayings of the true philosophy." (VS 41).

- *Why don't you ever discuss "meaningfulness" because I've been convinced that's what I should want out of life?*

The "purpose" or "goal" of life was of prime importance to Epicurus. As Lucretius recognized, "Mankind therefore ever toils vainly and to no purpose and wastes life in groundless cares because sure enough they have not learnt what is the true end of getting and up to what point genuine pleasure goes on

increasing" (DRN V:1430).

Your purpose is to live your best life (through the pursuit of pleasure).

- *How do you expect me to understand Epicurus when he approaches so many things so differently than what I am familiar with at church or in the workplaces?*

You already understand Epicurus.

When you wonder if it will rain, do you ask a *Priest?* Or a *meteorologist?*

You already understand Epicurus.

You believe in extra-terrestrial life?

You *definitely* understand Epicurus.

Do you like Science Fiction?

It came from an Epicurean.

You were required by society to embrace at least twelve years of a scientific education. If you remember any of Newton's Laws of Thermodynamics or Einstein's Theory of Relativity, there's a good chance your outlook is fundamentally Epicurean.

If you believe in the pursuit of happiness and the importance of friendship, you already appreciate Epicurean Ethics. If you acknowledge that Swiss scientists are smashing atoms together, and that nuclear weapons exist, you already accept Epicurean Physics. If you listen to your belly when you're hungry, grab a blanket when you're cold, and take a nap when you're tired, you already practice Epicurean Epistemology.