

Welcome Julia!

Post by "Cassius" of May 4, 2024 at 12:20 PM

Julia -

Thank you for posting that Vox Stoica link. I had not heard that before and am glad I am now aware of it.

I find it to be very inaccurate as to Epicurus but very typical of Stoic interpretations that center on fear and on tranquility, as if Epicurus were not concerned with "pleasure" at all. It starts off on the wrong foot, talking as if Epicurus did not value *both* stimulating and non-stimulative pleasure, and gets worse from there.

If you have heard our Lucretius Today podcasts over the past year you have likely heard us discuss these issues, and it is for many reasons that I share Nietzsche's contempt (i regret so strong a word but it is accurate) for Stoicism. The quote to which you linked does not emphasize it nearly as well as the one in which Nietzsche calls Stoicism a "fraud of words."

The true Stoics of the ancient world generally held Epicurus in contempt, and I give them credit for understanding the depth of the issues involved, rather than glossing over important differences and looking for an eclectic blend as does this commentator.

These are fascinating issues and very worth discussing so thank you for linking to that. I will likely start another thread on that episode at some point and I am tempted to record a point by point response to it.

If I thought that this commentator's interpretation of Epicurus were correct, I would have nothing to do with Epicurus, nor would I recommend Epicurus to you or anyone else! 😊 To be clear, I think he is flat wrong in asserting that Epicurean philosophy is all about running from pain, and I am happy to defend Epicurus from the false praise of someone who can apparently see him only through Stoic eyes.