

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

Post by “Pacatus” of May 9, 2024 at 6:33 PM

Not on point to the questions asked, but a plea for a revitalized Epicureanism for the modern day:

“‘The wasteland grows,’ wrote Nietzsche over a century ago. ‘Woe to him who hides wastelands within.’ Since then, the wastelands have grown ever more indiscriminately, both within and without. Our social and spiritual lives wither on our cell phone screens. Our cities, habitats, and public arenas suffer from a blight whose causes remain obscure while the effects are all-too-evident. The “little garden” of the human spirit falls into disrepair.

“The term ‘little garden’ alludes to *Ho Kepos*, or the small privately owned garden where in 306 BC Epicurus started one of the most influential and long-lived schools of antiquity. He lived in darkening times similar to ours, when the public and political spheres of Athenian democracy had fallen into decay and degradation. Greek philosophers before him—starting with Aristotle—believed that human happiness was possible only within the polis and the activities of citizenship. Epicurus instead believed that happiness had to be sought far from the folly and factionalism of the public realm. That is one reason he founded his school just outside the walls of Athens.

“Our age is badly in need of a strong dose of creative, revitalized Epicureanism, for Epicurus offers us a philosophy of how people can, on their own initiative, create little wellsprings of happiness in the midst of the wasteland.”

Robert Pogue Harrison, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/epicurus-for-our-time/>