

Key Citations - The Universe As Infinite In Space - Many Worlds With Life

Post by "Cassius" of July 15, 2024 at 10:00 PM

All of the perspectives you've expressed in the last several messages Tau Phi, are fine if they work for you, but as you say and know - they are not Epicurean perspectives. Would that the world were filled with people like you, but it's not. It's filled with "lost" people who are in the grip of supernatural religion, and unable to think their own way out of it, just like they were in the time of Lucretius and the time of Diogenes of Oinoanda, not to mention the time of Epicurus.

Epicurean philosophy was then, and can be today, an organized method of bringing answers to such people. If there are individuals like you who don't need its help, and can do it on your own, then that's all to the better for you, but it does nothing for the large numbers of the "hearts in darkness" that Lucretius was talking about in his poem.

Not everyone has to participate in the kind of organized activity that the ancient Epicureans were engaged in, but at the same time, if some don't, then the same patterns of deception and manipulation will go on and on and on and never be challenged. Maybe you see it differently, but to me it is in the nature of things that lone individuals, especially lone individuals who focus on retreating into their own gardens, can do little or nothing to change that situation. And of course I'm not at all referring to you as retreating into your own garden, but referring to the allusion often applied to the ancient Epicureans, which I will never admit to be true. The ancient Epicureans were part of an organized campaign, not lone rangers.

That's the value Epicurus saw in putting together a team and a community, and the same thing holds true today. People have to work together to accomplish anything, and to accomplish things they have to be aware of the situation around them. Again, I would wish that the world were full of Tau Phi's, but there are far too few of them. The great majority fit the description of the people Diogenes of Oinoanda referenced on his wall. They won't and can't think through a system of philosophy for themselves, and they will forever be at the mercy of the organized manipulators if those who know better don't step up to help them.

i guess we'll just have to agree to disagree on our assessment of the general situation and how to deal with it. No one is ever going to force you to accept any position of Epicurus with which you don't agree, but just like in the ancient world the teachings of Epicurus formed the basis of the "movement," and that's where this forum and our organized activities needs to remain focused.