

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

Post by “Eoghan Gardiner” of September 22, 2024 at 6:22 AM

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

It depends, being rich for an Epicurean could be defined as having pleasure and avoiding pain.

How many rich people, who allow their unnatural desires and unnecessary to seek the next thrill can't sit down with friends and talk?

Now I'm not a stoic, having more money is desirable but not at the cost it sometimes comes with.

You only have to be rich enough to have food and friends + a few good stories to tell

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

Epicurean philosophy firstly doesn't require to believe a strange metaphysic, that the cosmos is ordained towards the Good or that we are in an endless cycle of rebirth and death for aeons.

Instead it starts with brute facts and goes from there. It only requires you to trust your senses, to trust that you have within you everything you need to choose pleasure and avoid pain.

Epicurean philosophy takes a wholesome look at humans and doesn't think our natural tendencies are bad but rather quite good.

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?

Who's life is completely together? To read epicurus you don't need to sludge through centuries of metaphysical vomit but just a few hours, who can't afford to read Emily Austin or some other introduction?

As to why, well it's quite different then anything else, it doesn't require you to believe anything that can't be experienced, it doesn't require any negative theology apophatic theology etc...

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

I don't think there is a ultimate meaning to life, meaning comes from experiences namely pleasurable experiences. Pleasure isn't a dirty word, it's wholesome.

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?

Unfortunately we live in a time where Aristotle, Plato and Thomas Aquinas have won. Teleology seems to in people's minds at all times. However even from an Epicurean pov, these people at church are still seeking pleasure, the pleasure of community, working together and ultimately the pleasure of some after life. So it's not that different, we just say toss the fear of death, toss the fear of "am I one of the elect or not because I want to have sex?"