

Immutability of Epicurean school in ancient times

Post by “kochiekoch” of July 29, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Bertrand Russel didn't like Epicureanism's "conservatism" too. Not progressive enough for him.



I think the school stuck to its principles because they worked. You ended up with Early Platonism, Middle Platonism and Neo Platonism because there were always mystical leaders reinterpreting, according to their individual visions, what the philosophy was, in order to make it fit the challenges of the times. Same thing with the Stoics and Academics.

And how did these philosophies work out for the non-Epicureans? How did Cicero's denial of grief, which the subject of the latest podcast, work out for him? Not well considering he went out on a campaign that got him killed soon after he wrote his Disputations.

There is no way, if Epicureanism was impractical, it would have survived intact for centuries. It's the only philosophy or ideology I know of that has.