

# Beyond Stoicism (2025)

Post by “Cassius” of August 12, 2025 at 8:02 AM

More generally, the Epicureans were fairly radical empiricists, valuing what our senses tell us while being distrustful of our reasoning abilities. In this way, they differed dramatically from other schools that we'll examine later on, such as the Platonists and the Stoics. For example, imagine partially submerging a stick

This strikes me as being *particularly* poorly stated (or well stated if your goal is to misrepresent Epicurus).

Epicurus does not distrust our reasoning abilities. Epicurus insists on reason, Epicurus uses reason vigorously and thoroughly, Epicurus establishes the existence of atoms and his entire physics based on reason, Lucretius describes Epicurean philosophy as true reason.

What Epicurus is distrustful of is Stoics and others who claim for reason things that reason (in the form of dialectical logic) cannot do. Words are useful, but they are not reality, and you cannot find truth by looking to syllogisms rather than by using the senses, anticipations, and feelings along with reason.

It's not reason that is to be distrusted, but Stoicism.