

Beyond Stoicism (2025)

Post by "Cassius" of August 12, 2025 at 11:49 AM

[Quote from Rolf](#)

Wow, what a mess. I'd struggle to write a more misleading and inaccurate description of Epicureanism if I tried. It's a real shame that some people will read this and think they have an accurate impression of the philosophy.

Yes it is a mess.

And everyone needs to be aware that other than Emily Austin's book, DeWitt's book and probably a few others that don't come to mind at the moment, what is being presented in this article is by far the majority and mainstream version of what is taught about Epicurus today.

In fact you have to really work hard to find something OTHER than this interpretation.

So right from the start I like to warn people to be prepared. For this purpose I arbitrarily divide the world into two categories of people:

If you're a "Category 1" person who thinks the most important thing in life is to be calm and tranquil and avoid conflict and disagreement at any cost (which is what many people who claim to love Epicurus want you to accept was what Epicurus taught) then you've come to the wrong place in visiting EpicureanFriends! 😊

On the other hand, if you're a "Category 2" person willing to stand up against a crowd, be independent, and read the texts for yourself, then there's nothing more rewarding than studying the ancient texts for yourself. That's the only real way to get to the bottom of what Epicurus was really saying, and that's what we are doing at Epicureanfriends - some of us in the original languages and some of us in translations.

I'd like to think it is possible to change someone from being a Category 1 person into a Category 2 person, and indeed I do think we have seen some of that over ten years at EpicureanFriends. But it is an extremely hard thing to do, and the longer and more deeply someone has accepted Stoicism or Buddhism or something similar in the past, the harder it is to do.

VS52. Friendship dances around the world, bidding us all to awaken to the recognition of happiness.

[VS41](#). We must laugh and philosophize at the same time, and do our household duties, and employ our other faculties, and never cease proclaiming the sayings of the true philosophy.