

Summarizing Epicurean Philosophy vs Objectivism

Post by "Joshua" of July 5, 2019 at 7:40 PM

Those four answers show precisely what kind of muddled thinker Rand really was.

1. Identifying metaphysics as objective reality just punts the question. What "is" objective reality? What is it made of?
2. Reason can build on epistemology, but it does not stand in for it. Epistemology must answer to something more "prime"; as sensation (for an empiricist), revelation (as in theology), a priori knowledge, feelings, anticipations, etc. Reason operates on knowledge--it is not a foundation of knowledge on which to operate.
3. Self-interest is actually a valid, if often wrong-headed, ethical system.
4. Capitalism is a theory and expression of economics, not really of politics. She wants to offer it as a counterpoint to Marxism, which offers a theory of economics, a theory of history, AND a theory of government. But that was never what capitalism was; a society can have a capitalist economy, and still have all of its political decisions ahead of it.

But to answer your question;

1. Metaphysics: Atomic Materialism (one kind of philosophical naturalism)
2. Epistemology: the Canon: Sensations, Feelings, and Anticipations.
3. Ethics: Hedonism*
- 4 Politics: [theory or practice?]
 - 4a: theory of politics: Arises by human convention.
 - 4b: practice of politics: N/A (unrelated to the questions that concern the Epicurean.)

*of Hedonism, three kinds; egotistical, altruistic, rational. In my opinion, Epicurus advocated rational hedonism; no *need* to consider everyone else's pleasure (altruism), nor any wisdom in ignoring the same (egotism); instead, consider other's pleasure and pain rationally, as it bears on your own hedonic calculus. That is why friendship is initially founded in utility.