

Welcome Ontologix!

Post by "ontologix" of September 3, 2025 at 10:56 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

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Also, I find it interesting that we have what is probably a disproportionately large number of native Germans here on the forum, and that prompts me to ask something else:

By no means all, but a significant number, of people I have run into who are fans of Epicurus are also fans of Nietzsche. I know Nietzsche had some negative things to say about Epicurus, but especially in "AntiChrist" he also spoke positively. Given that you are German I am curious about your views of the intersection (or lack thereof) between Epicurus and Nietzsche. And do not be concerned that you will offend anyone regardless of your views because we have people on all sides of how to appraise Nietzsche.

I know this is a deep subject so of course feel free to respond as fully or as briefly as you like.

Interesting to read that so many native Germans are members in this forum since philosophy is hardly taught in German secondary education. The nation of Immanuel Kant wantonly ignores its treasure of philosophers.

Well, I am not sufficiently familiar with Nietzsche to answer your question. I have read some, but missed his absence of a proper philosophical system. But since Nietzsche wrote on many different issues the answer will be difficult. Epicure however had a clearly structured materialistic system to which he adhered.

One thing however I would like to point out: Nietzsche was abused by the Nazis.

Nietzsche's younger sister Elisabeth Förster-Nietzsche bent her brother's writings in such a way that he could be adapted to the Nazi ideology. Hitler visited the Nietzsche Archive in Weimar several times. I doubt if the uneducated Hitler understood a word of Nietzsche's writings. Nietzsche's concept of the Übermensch may have been attractive to the Nazis but is easily misunderstood.

But Nietzsche was anything but an antisemite and broke with Richard Wagner when the latter's antisemitism became more and more obvious.

I will ask a knowledgeable philosopher if he has an answer to your question.

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My expert has replied.

Epicure and Nietzsche have little in common except their naturalism and their absence of metaphysical speculation. Both were more or less atheists. "God is dead" and "gods can't be bothered with the daily wear and tear of us humans". There is no eternal and immortal soul.

Both see human existence as based on physical matter and nature, and both are sceptical towards metaphysical speculation. Life is a continuous becoming and decaying. Reason is a practical thing to help cope with life and not a continuum of its own.

But principally there are only few parallels between Epicure and Nietzsche. Nietzsche was a great fan of Greek tragedy which was not a major topic if at all with Epicure although he was close to it.

I would personally agree to that reply. The problem lies with Nietzsche who wrote on a wide variety of questions without having a clearly defined system.