

Article By Dr. Emily Austin - "Epicurus And The Politics Of The Fear Of Death"

Post by "TauPhi" of December 10, 2025 at 4:58 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Ok so you're focusing on the title rather than the content.

I couldn't care less about the title. I'm trying to make people aware that calling fear of dying and fear of death the same thing is misleading. I'm not saying Emily Austin wrote a bad article - she didn't. It's a very interesting article but for people who are new to Epicurus' concepts it will not be as clear as it is to you, [Cassius](#) .

The conclusions like that:

Quote

I have argued that Epicurus does not believe all forms of the fear of death are irrational and eliminable. At least one fear - the fear of violent death caused by others - is brute and must be managed politically. [...]

or that:

Quote

In sum, I argue that Epicurus believes there is a fear of death that does not disappear, which we can control with due care and with close attention to the social environs. Though my thesis might render Epicurus less of a radical with regards the fear of death than heretofore believed, and though it may even make him seem a bit less than perfectly brave, I maintain that it is a good way to make sense of the text. [...]

are perfectly fine when you understand she's talking about *fear of dying* and not *fear of death*. There are no different forms of the fear of death in Epicurus' system. Epicurus was as radical about fear of death as it's humanly possible - we can't experience death so there's nothing to be afraid of. This radical claim is crucial to his system because it slams the door shut on supernaturalism, heaven, hell, eternal punishment, reward etc., and it leaves no backdoor option to get back to such concepts.