

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

Post by "Cassius" of December 30, 2025 at 8:48 AM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

According to the article by Austin, we need (and have a natural and necessary need) to feel safe from being violently killed by others and this can't be done through reasoning because it isn't caused by irrational ideas. It can only be done "politically" meaning through creating laws and ways to make society safe.

I think her point is that it cannot be done by reasoning ALONE. Every decision ultimately requires good judgment and that involves reasoning. As I see it the point she is making is that after we reason through the appropriate action to take, we must then take that action. Simply thinking about things and not taking any physical action is not going to address the problem of safety or many other problems of similar nature.

Yes we can resolve our fear of "being dead" by thinking about the problem based on observation of the way the world works, and in the case of something that is a wrong attitude you correct a wrong attitude by a correct attitude. But you don't keep yourself safe from crime or invading armies by simply working on your "attitude" about them.

I think ultimately her article is about stressing the practical aspect of Epicurus that we are not just mental creatures, we are also bodily creatures, and living in the real world requires both thought AND action.