

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

Post by "Cassius" of December 30, 2025 at 8:59 AM

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.

I am repeating that statement because I think much of the discussion in our meeting came from questions raised by those who think that this is such a common sense position that the article and its detailed arguments are unnecessary. *Who could be so stupid as to ever advocate thinking alone without taking action to implement one's reasoning?*

The reason I agree that the article was needed is that I perceive many articles about Epicurus by Academics in the last hundred years tend to go exactly in the direction of holding Epicurus to be trying to solve every problem by thought ALONE. That's the same attitude that praises Stoicism similar viewpoints which hold that the only thing that matters in life is virtue. For many of them, virtue is primarily a mental activity, so they argue either explicitly or implicitly that all we need to do is adjust our attitudes about things, and that real-world action is unnecessary.

There is good information about this in Dr Sedley's article "Ethics of Brutus and Cassius" as to the lack of participation by Stoics in taking action during their confrontation with Julius Caesar.