

Thoughts and Discussion on Organizing Epicurean Community

Post by “Adrastus” of January 2, 2026 at 6:08 AM

Taking another swing at starting an Epicurean group, this time steering well clear of the philosophical and religious angle I was pursuing before and instead focusing on developing a unique form of working men's organization. Personally I am building off the question. "What do I personally want?" and "What kind of person do I want in this group?"

I knew I didn't want 'philosophy' people to come and debate or talk about other philosophers or for me to have to give presentations on philosophy. I know I don't get on well with 'professionals' in middle class milieus, as a rather eccentric bumpkin. Nor do I want people like me that reeeeeeally needed Epicurean philosophy to get their minds sorted out as that is such an enormously risky prospect.

What I want is working people, defined as people like me who like to do physical work but are also interested in community and have at least a bit of intellectual pull. I like going to taverns, bring some cards or a light board game, meals, conversation, laughing and joking in crass as well as more high brow ways. I like the sort of guys I am currently working with honestly; lots of African Americans, Latinos and White guys without some inflated sense of "entitlement".

So why even start a group instead of cultivating friendships with my work buds? Why should Epicureans generally organize much at all beyond Friendships? To answer this I am leaning on the organizing "principial" or rather distinct feeling of "philoxenia", or love of strangers. I feel love for strangers and people working hard. I am not aiming for "solutions to society's problems", "solving the mens loneliness problem", or overturning the social order, or taking part in labor disputes or whatever Unions do; nor is this aimed squarely at teaching Epicurean Philosophy; but rather living Epicurean attitudes. I want to solve *that* guy's problem, particularly of finding dignified or even pleasant work; or sussing out ways to make work and lesiure more pleasurable. I love the feeling of comraderie I sometimes get in workplaces that make the cultivation of work pleasant, even fun like my current job even if I might go home with a few bruises and a sore muscle or two. I want to set people up, if possible for the Epicurean idea of autarkia where we can bask in the feeling of self-sufficiency and security of friendship without having to rely on it unless we must.

Anyway, so it will be a "mutual aid organization" that is a group of friends cultivating within themselves the love of the stranger and of friendship that they already feel, aimed at networking with other folks in the community-like business owners to set people up with work and meeting to socialize. Perhaps it can elevate to answering "spiritual", communal or other philosophical needs at some point through their friendly interest in my passion for Epicrean

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Philosophy, but it needn't be the end in itself. I am imagining some hand-made sign at a hang-out at community or otherwise large table at a restaurant that says, "Take a seat Friend or Stranger".

I am likely going to take a non-democratic, non-autocratic approach to organizing and found it on the relationships and hospitality I am giving to the group until we are on a similar page that others can pursue their intentions more specifically... in the absence of money exchanged, monetizing any part of the organizing, never institutionalizing with legal form.... then Hospitality and Friendship will be how things are maintained and there will be nothing worth taking over plundering or destroying as there is no gain in participation beyond feeling like we ought to be there, others feeling like we ought to as well and feeling like we are pursuing the shared telos of friendship and hospitality.

I also want to make the aesthetic choice to have it be a "Men's" group explicitly in the title in the same way the Boy Scouts allows girls if they really want to be there and fit in. Mainly to turn off people that would likely be too ideologically indoctrinated to accept the distinctly Epicurean way I am designing the organizing "principals." But I am not opposed to changing this depending on who shows up and what works well. Anyway, I'll stop there.