

# What Would An Epicurean Use In Their Toolkit For Making Their Hedonic Calculus?

Post by "Cassius" of July 18, 2019 at 3:41 PM

Yes Godek I think you are on the wrong track with your comments about "dogma" - I think Godfrey's quote is good but I would say it sounds Epicurean (as he did too, in another place) as I am not sure that autarchy deals with issues of knowledge.

## [Quote from Godfrey](#)

But of interest to me was the contention that uncertainty is the greatest contributor to stress and some discussion of removing uncertainty, which sounded a lot like autarchy.

Godek in Diogenes Laertius you will recall that:

## Quote

[The wise man] will found a school, but not in such a manner as to draw the crowd after him; and will give readings in public, but only by request. **He will be a dogmatist but not a mere skeptic;** and he will be like himself even when asleep. And he will on occasion die for a friend.

Of course you also have to recall that you are going to keep an open mind on things where proof is not clear:

## Quote

24. If you reject absolutely any single sensation without stopping to distinguish between opinion about things awaiting confirmation and that which is already confirmed to be present, whether in sensation or in feelings or in any application of intellect to the presentations, you will confuse the rest of your sensations by your groundless opinion and so you will reject every standard of truth. If in your ideas based upon opinion you hastily affirm as true all that awaits confirmation as well as that which does not, you will not avoid error, as you will be maintaining the entire basis for doubt in every judgment between correct and incorrect opinion.

And in those times you are going to "wait" as against stated by DL.

But much of book four of Lucretius, especially the very important part about how knowledge is based on the senses, is targeted to the conclusion that we can and should have confidence in

things that are clear, and that we should actually scorn those who allege that knowledge (which means our confidence in a certain fact) is impossible.