

Tim O'Keefe -- Ouch!

Post by "Pacatus" of March 10, 2026 at 1:33 PM

"Most of the empirical claims Epicurus made about the world – some fundamental to his system, others peripheral – have since been falsified. ... So it is not surprising that *the philosophical system of Epicureanism has **no adherents today.***" (!?) 🤔 [Tim O'keefe, Epicureanism; 2014, Routledge.]

Ouch! 😡😠 I thought I'd take another look at O'Keefe's introduction – but I think I'll just shut it down there (though I'm sure there's some good stuff in it as well). No ancient philosophy is unaffected by advances in empirical knowledge, but the core principles of Epicureanism remain intact. And O'Keefe's claim about "no adherents" is just false – as this on-line Garden clearly demonstrates.

I revisit introductory texts from time to time – but I'll stick with the likes of, e.g., Emily Austin and Catherine Wilson.

[Yes, I do tend toward a bit of eclecticism (I don't know – for myself – how to otherwise personalize any of this stuff in my daily life, and keep an inquiring mind) – but, I think of Epicurus as the core (why I keep coming back to it), with a bit of eclecticism around the edges. Which I try 😊 not to impose on discussions here – sometimes I fail. 😞]