

Revisiting Issues of The Use of AI in Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Don" of April 2, 2026 at 12:07 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I have tremendous respect for the effort that Eikadistes has put into Epicurean philosophy over the years.

Ditto! @Eikadistes has definitely earned ΚΥΔΟΣ ! Additionally [Cassius](#) has also earned respect for creating this little virtual Garden on the Internet without which I guarantee I would not have stuck with Epicurean philosophy as long as I have.

That said...

[Cassius](#) , I'm going to take a slight tangent but eventually keep AI in the mix.

From my reading of your posts in this thread, you are ready to use whatever tools are at your disposal to evangelize the Good News of Epicurus' Philosophy to a world that is in desperate need of it. You see AI as one of those tools, and you refuse to cede the field to those who would use AI to advance idealism, Platonism, et al.

If you like to use AI to enhance your writing or to provide visuals to your work, so be it. I've shared my personal feelings about AI and its use.

However, if you want to "strike a blow for Epicurus" or to challenge the prevailing dominance of idealism, Platonism, Skepticism, Stoicism, AI is a very small arrow in your quiver.

Breaking through to a larger audience is not going to happen by posting better articles on this forum or on Substack, no matter how enhanced by AI they are.

You have 34 subscribers on Substack. Granted, here on the form, the "Most Active Threads Of The Last Year " had from 10K to 20K views; but that's not near "going viral." Posting *better* articles on the forum or Substack are not going to strike that decisive blow you want to strike. We all do good work here, *outstanding* work, but this doesn't put a dent in increasing awareness of Epicurus to the wider world.

Emily Austin's book - arguably the best, most accessible intro to the philosophy - on Amazon has only 140 reviews and is #79 in Ancient Greek & Roman Philosophy and #135 in Philosophy of Ethics & Morality. Ryan Holiday's most recent Stoic book from 2025, *Wisdom Takes Work: Learn. Apply. Repeat. (The Stoic Virtues Series)*, is #8 in Ancient Greek & Roman Philosophy and has 659 reviews. The 20 of the top 25 books [on Amazon in Ancient Greek & Roman](#)

[Philosophy are ALL Stoic!](#) Not an Epicurean book until #48!!

For whatever the definition of "winning" is, the Stoics are winning in the wider modern world. Epicureans are a small fish in a VERY large pond, with most people not having any idea we exist... and those who do know, likely having an erroneous view. [Ryan Holiday was just on Hasan Minhaj's YouTube show](#), and Holiday talks BRIEFLY about Epicureans just to say they advocated staying out of politics and "retreating to their Garden."

Even if you used generative AI to create bots to post a constant stream of content to social media platforms, the algorithm would likely bury them all under all the slop sloshing around and I doubt it would get the engagement we all want it to. Plus, if it's just one-off posts with no comments or reaction, it definitely dies on the vine.

So, what's my strategy for striking that blow?? I have no magic wand. The podcast is great, and I'm glad its on multiple platforms. But how many views does it get? Having a presence on Substack is fine if people find your articles randomly on a search of the platform or Google.

To really get the message out, there needs to be a movement, heck - a celebrity endorsement would be nice. There was a flurry of podcast appearances when Dr. Austin's book came out, but it wasn't sustained. There needs to be a constant drumbeat of new books, new interviews, new widely published content, engagement with Stoics on their platforms (That's why i would LOVE to see you go head to head with Pigliucci! but you didn't even have comments enabled on your Substack article/response about his article)

There's even a little rivalry (friendly?!) among the Epicurean communities and little to no organization or collaboration or coordination or mutual support. The Society of Epicurus goes its way. The Greek Epicurean groups go their ways. This forum is a bastion of fine work and enthusiasm. But The Stoics continue to outpace our school with books, interview appearances, regular Stoic Week events, merchandise that's widely available from notebooks to calendars to shirts to you name it.

Generative AI is a drop in the bucket and is really the least helpful of the tools in the toolbox.

How does our School make a dent in the popular Zeitgeist? How do we get talked about in the same circles - as a REAL alternative - to the Stoics??

I think we are ONLY on the very early curve of making a dent in this area but thinking AI is going to get us a statistically significant way down the road is a pipe dream.

ALL this would take time, energy, money, coordination, etc. I'm not saying this to be pessimistic, I'm not. I'm trying to take this conversation in a constructive direction, and this thread on AI seemed like it was getting bogged down. I may have more to say later, but it's getting late, I have to get up for my regular job tomorrow (well, later "today" now). I agree with you that striking a blow for Epicurus is a truly worthy goal, but there are only so many minutes in the day and so many days in one's life.

I leave this here as food for thought and responses.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/5007-revisiting-issues-of-the-use-of-ai-in-epicurean-philosophy/?postID=39158#post39158>