

Eudaimonia and Makariotēs in the Letter to Menoeceus

Post by “Pacatus” of June 3, 2026 at 5:49 PM

Yes, unlike, say Plato or Aristotle, Epicurus’ ethics are derived from a proper understanding of nature. I might put it thus:

Φύσις (φύσιολογία) ⇒ συμπερασματολογία [?] (logical inference*) ⇒ ἠθικός (ethics).

Nature as a whole (and our place in it) is the guiding ground, rather than human reason abstracted therefrom. And that natural sequence may be part of what the canon is about?

* By “logical inference” here, I mean that Epicurus – as opposed to other schools – seems to have employed a kind of precursor to modern inductive reasoning (e.g., regarding atoms and the void), whereas the Stoics – e.g. Chrysippus – seem to have thought that their deductive syllogisms could yield empirical truth.