

Suavity - General Discussion

Post by "Cassius" of June 12, 2026 at 3:22 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

I don't think that the use of mocking words against philosophical enemies is constructive, and it goes against suavity. (I like to think that Diogene Laertius got that aspect of Epicurus wrong).

Also....VS79. The man who is serene causes no disturbance to himself or to another

That's why we need this discussion. It is clearly established in the texts that Epicurus and other Epicureans did exactly that (referred to philosophical opponents or at least their opinions in mocking terms). Yet Epicurus and his followers (Atticus' biography is an example) were considered by their friends to be a model of proper living.

If certain of us today have a definition of suavity that excludes the combination of graciousness toward friends with frankness toward enemies, then the burden is on us to understand why. I think it's relatively easy to find a way to reconcile the evidence rather than conclude that we are smarter than Epicurus on that point. 😊