

Updated FAQ Entry: Why Should I Care About Epicurean Physics When So Much Science Has Changed In The Last 2000 Years?

Post by “Don” of June 17, 2026 at 12:56 PM

[Quote from Peter Konstans](#)

No philosophy, no advice, no magic formula made up of a string of words can bring down the iron walls of the environment and the brain. *Someone's environment is what it is and someone's brain is what it is. This fixes human behavior in full.*

Now, *the absence of moral agency doesn't mean humans can't influence other humans.* This is trivially easy to do by means of manipulating the circuits of human neurobiology that govern pleasure and pain. This technique is morally neutral and people use it as they please both to benefit others and to do harm.

I'm honestly trying to understand how both these can be true.

How can our behavior be determined fully by brain physics and environment BUT we can still influence other humans. If all is determined by physics, doesn't that mean even the influencers are not responsible for their "influence" but merely acting out their predetermined behaviors which those influenced are just the next step in the chain of determinism?

These ideas have also been expounded by Sipolsky and others, but I'm not entirely convinced by their arguments. I'll try to dig up some alternative perspectives at some point.