

# **Marriage, Children, & Personal Relationships - Greater Difficulties and Risk Can Make Them Harder Than Ever. Epicurean Perspectives on Remedies**

**Post by "Cassius" of July 13, 2026 at 7:47 PM**

I have been delinquent in not spending more time with this thread, especially since I encouraged Raphael to post it. Also, it's possible I may take the liberty of editing the thread title so that it is more broadly applicable, as I think the issues that need to be addressed deserve to be evaluated in a much wider scope that the financial focus of the current thread might indicate.

We had a very good and long discussion about some of these issues this past Sunday the 12th and many of those issues deserve to be covered here.

## [Quote from Elli](#)

Dear Raphael, sorry but your whole text is a measurement of turmoil, not pleasure. You count taxes, cost of living, politics, technology, decline, demographics, robots, migration, feminism, MGTOW, Schopenhauer, Augustus, Rome, Nietzsche, the West , but you do not count yourself. Epicurus says that every desire must be judged by the pleasure it brings and the disturbance it creates. You judge having children in terms of the market, not in terms of the Canon.

Elli's reaction here is why I may retitle the thread and perhaps even add a note to the first post. My understanding of the positions of both Raphael and Elli is that they are likely on the very same page about the issues of personal relationships, marriage, children, growing old together etc., but the broader social / financial issues may have obscured that fact.

## [Quote from Elli](#)

So when I wrote that modern people cannot find partners because they cannot find friendship, I meant it in this Epicurean sense: intimacy is not something separate from friendship, nor something that appears magically. It grows out of the daily practice of mutual care, openness, and trust. To have a friend, you must be a friend -and to have intimacy, you must cultivate friendship.

Yes these are the issues that need discussion to find ways to address them.

Another aspect of this is the increasing difficulty of speaking freely to people and letting them know what we actually think about things. Monitoring and censorship and the fact that the

internet seems forever can tend to make people reluctant to say what they really think, and in a time when people rely on meeting others online, you don't have much to go on other than a picture and look in someone's eye, and with AI image creation you certainly can't trust even that anymore.

If you are - like many of us - very opinionated and also not in the "majority" on many of these issues, it becomes very difficult to find people who really "connect" with you.