

An Error-Filled Video from the Neo-Epicureans: Office Space

Post by "Cassius" of November 7, 2019 at 11:43 AM

I have a lot more to say about this video myself. I think there are critical points that come out about how the video gets Epicurus wrong when the video is compared to the actual movie. I haven't read into the background of the movie, but I strongly doubt that the writer/director of the movie had any intention of linking the main character to Epicurean thought.

One reason I have held off further commentary myself is that I wanted to see what reaction Elayne's article received. I consider the issue involved here - how to interpret Epicurus in a real-world way - is the number one issue that ought to be of concern to those of us who promote Epicurus as a wise teacher. The direction to which Elayne is pointing is an entirely different direction than is presented in the "Epicureanism in Office Space" video.

But to be clear, the "Epicureanism in Office Space" video is a very articulate and correct presentation of the view you will get on any college campus, and on 98% of website discussions of Epicurus, and in virtually all academic books on Epicurus with the exception of Norman DeWitt (there may be others in other languages, but I can only comment on English).

We all have to make up our own minds as to which direction is correct, but that choice will make all the difference in how someone would apply Epicurus to his or her own life.