

Discussion of the Society of Epicurus' 20 Tenets of 12/21/19

Post by "Elayne" of December 27, 2019 at 11:02 PM

Hiram, I don't have time for a long reply, since I am spending time with my daughter this weekend. There is a history here that is not being directly confronted. You recently published a very cutting and misleading article that you admitted was directed at this group, and you've been dismissive of me and others in our private group messages. You've made multiple public comments that were covertly aggressive, towards Cassius, Elli, and me. It doesn't really work to "nicely" insult people as you have. So I think it is disingenuous to say all this.

I am being straightforward here. I know nothing about you personally, so I am not making a personal insult. But your direction in philosophy is not consistent with science. It has a strong thread of idealism for which there is no basis in reality. I do think Epicurus' ethics was consistent with his physics. It does upset me that you are using your public platform to put Epicurus' name on a version that doesn't fit the physics. I think it hurts our chances of spreading a reality-based philosophy that leads to pleasure. I and others have tried to persuade you away from this course, but it has not worked. We have tried the friendly approach to no avail.

Epicurus was straightforward about his opponents. He called them names, like Plato "The Golden." I am not a name-caller, but I am not going to be fake with you. As long as you pursue the course you've chosen, I'm going to say I think you are making a tragic mistake. And I hope you change your mind.

Because idealism is so popular and familiar, you will have an easier time attracting fame and followers than someone who promotes the non-idealistic perspective. It sells, big time, because it's already the trend. You will have the appearance of speaking for Epicurus. This seems an utter disaster to me.

Speaking plainly about what I see you doing is not meant as a jibe at you. It is meant for the benefit of people who may be learning on this site, in hopes that they will choose a life of real pleasure instead of the idealism you are promoting. If I am not plain about it, they may miss the differences, simply because reality based philosophy is so radically unusual.