

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

Post by "Elayne" of December 28, 2019 at 2:30 PM

Hiram, I preferred not to go into a bickering level of detail, mostly bc it seems pointless. Elli and I have long ago developed a friendship. Our initial difficulties resulted from a misunderstanding-- she thought I was a humanist/idealistic, and I was offended at someone thinking that about me, because it is the opposite of who I am. After I saw how much trouble the FB site had from people pushing other philosophies on there, I totally understood what happened. Elli turns out to be one of the warmest and kindest people I have met.

The reason I express admiration and agreement with Cassius and Elli is that I am joyful at finally finding people who understand life the way I do. It is not for flattery-- it is deep appreciation, and relief that I am not alone. Epicurus talked about the importance of finding like-minded friends to study philosophy and share life with.

I actually had already been using the Canon to assess reality before I read it, although mine was less organized. It is how I evaluated Epicurus' words for truth-- it is how I evaluate Philodemus or anyone else. I think what you, Hiram, are not understanding is that I am testing what anyone says, living or dead, by the Canon. So I don't care who it is that says a thing or how long they've done it for-- if it doesn't line up with reality, it won't fly for me.

I was startled to find a philosopher I agreed with, on almost everything. I would have just called it my own philosophy, because it is, but that would be plagiarism since he said it first.

I consider myself a fundamentalist only in regards to reality. Epicurus shared my perspective on that. If someone else doesn't, then that is why I disagree, not because of some weird cult thing.

You don't know how you would interact with me if I don't follow Philodemus' rules? If you don't know how it is you've been rude to me-- primarily condescending-- I don't think a rule will help fix that. I prefer the spontaneous kindness of friends, who do not need rules to want each other to be happy. Even while following rules, people can be very unkind if they lack the underlying feeling. I see Epicurus' words on friendship more as descriptive-- this is what it's like to be friends-- not a fixed set of rules.

Like Epicurus, I am not overly quick to assess a relationship as a friendship.