

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

Post by "Hiram" of December 30, 2019 at 6:01 PM

[Quote from Todd](#)

I do think there are things that can be said, from an Epicurean perspective, with respect to various policies, and I approve of your intention to work in that direction. But what I have seen so far of your method completely ignores that fact that pleasure is subjective. If you don't keep that firmly in mind, then IMO you are departing from Epicurean philosophy rather than extending and applying it.

Hi Todd (I don't think i know you)

I shared the hermarchus example elsewhere and am curious to know what you think about it because the scholars, it seems, would have wanted us to apply these Doctrines in real life situations and under diverse conditions rather than be armchair philosophers.

Also Hermarchus may have been deciding for himself whether to eat animals, but it seems like he was speaking of policy makers at different points in history and describing HOW they came up with policy based on concrete advantage and disadvantage at various times.

<http://societyofepicurus.com/hermarchus-on-...ent-of-animals/>

Here are the passages--notice that Hermarchus doesn't say "oh we CAN NEVER posit a certain policy because that's idealism", no he said "these are the philosophical tools and here's how to use them in the real world with a concrete example", and also notices that he speaks of concrete advantages and disadvantages:

Quote

Since, if we suffered them to increase excessively, they would become injurious to us. But through the number of them which is now preserved, **certain advantages are imparted to human life**. For sheep and oxen, and every such like animal, when the number of them is moderate, are beneficial to our necessary wants; but if they become redundant in the extreme, and **far exceed the number which is sufficient, they then become detrimental to our life**; the latter by employing their strength, in consequence of participating of this through an innate power of nature, and the former, by consuming the nutriment which springs up from the earth for our benefit alone. Hence, through this cause, the slaughter of animals of this kind is not prohibited, in order that as many of them as are sufficient for our use, and which we may be able

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1319-discussion-of-the-society-of-epicurus-20-tenets-of-12-21-19/?postID=5719#post5719>

easily to subdue, may be left.