

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

Post by "Cassius" of January 9, 2020 at 9:52 AM

[Quote from Oscar](#)

Good point! I'll have to consider this some more before categorizing Epicurus as one thing rather than another.

It really does seem to me that his perspective on this issue is unique, much like some of his other views are unique. And that's one of many reasons I don't like lumping Epicurus in with other philosophers with labels like "he's one of the hedonists" or "he's one of the atomists."

Those kind of labels totally obscure the depth and sweep of the philosophy, and he really deserves the name "Epicurean" and the effort to look into what that word really means.

And I know there is a cite in Cicero where he complained about Epicurus using words in non-standard ways, so this is not a new issue, and if we are going to be clear we really have to be precise in our definitions.

This is something that is a regular stumbling block in discussing Epicurus, but there's simply no way around dealing with it if we want to really understand what he was saying.