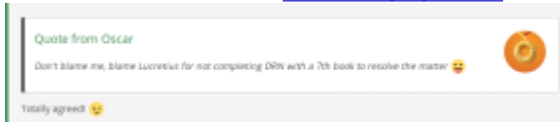


Two Types?

Post by “Cassius” of January 10, 2020 at 4:17 PM

Here's a litmus test, [Mike Anyayahan](#) :



If someone is so tightly wound that they can't laugh at a joke like that, then they might claim to belong to a super-fundamentalist Epicurean sect!

BUT --- if they did claim such, I would say that they were NOT really Epicurean, because I do not hesitate to label someone who as no sense of humor as NON-Epicurean!

Two examples of an Epicurean speaking "with a smile" --

On Ends Book 1 -

I had spoken rather with the intention of drawing out Torquatus than of delivering a discourse of my own. But Triarius interposed, **with a smile**: “Why, you have practically expelled Epicurus altogether from the philosophic choir. What have you left to him except that, whatever his style may be, you find his meaning intelligible? His doctrines in Natural Philosophy were second-hand, and in your opinion unsound at that; and his attempts to improve on his authority only made things worse. Dialectic he had none. His identification of the Chief Good with pleasure in the first place was in itself an error, and secondly this also was not original; for it had been said before, and said better, by Aristippus. To crown all you added that Epicurus was a person of no education.”

On Ends Book 2 -

“I am at no loss for authorities,” said Torquatus, “to whom to refer your arguments. I might be able to do some execution myself, but I prefer to find better equipped champions.” “No doubt you allude to our excellent and learned friends Siro and Philodemus.” “You are right,” he replied. “Very well then,” said I; “but it would be fairer to let Triarius pronounce some verdict on our dispute.” “I formally object to him as prejudiced,” **he rejoined with a smile**, “at all events on this issue. You have shown us some mercy, but Triarius lays about him like a true Stoic.”

It would only make sense that Epicurus would have liked to joke and have fun - which is probably something that needs to be considered in evaluating what his enemies reported him as saying at times, or even things he himself wrote at times.