

On Covid19 And Ruthlessly Taking The Measure Of Our Values (New York Times Article by Stephen Greenblatt)

Post by "Cassius" of March 17, 2020 at 5:18 PM

Boy I was shocked when I first read those comments. I remember reading that blog article at the time, but I can no longer remember the details without re-reading. From my perspective (and this is an issue I just posted about to Eugenios 😊) the significant thing is that Greenblatt told a good story and introduced a lot of people to Epicurus in a generally commendable way. Some of the criticisms may be valid, some may not, but that doesn't interfere with my appreciation of what he accomplished.

The takeaway from my thoughts about different perspectives in life right now is that this isn't a BUG of nature, but a FEATURE. That's not to say that all different perspectives are equally entitled to our respect, and in fact that is certainly not the case. But that just like we need to understand how eyes can be nearsighted and then adjust our processing of what they give to us, we can understand that others have different perspectives and adjust our reaction to their differences accordingly.

Don't get me wrong, sometimes we'll nod in agreement after we communicate, and sometimes communications just widens the breach and we go to war and try to kill each other, but either way we need to understand that these differences exist and why they occur because that will help us react more effectively. Maybe we'll hug the other person; maybe we'll try to shoot him, but if we go into the situation thinking that there is a god to decide what is right and wrong, or that there is some kind of absolute virtue to which we need to conform, then we're just fooling ourselves.