

Welcome Camotero!

Post by “Mathitis Kipouros” of June 11, 2020 at 12:34 AM

Thanks for the welcome guys. Please forgive my typing since I'm on my phone and English is my second language.

I came to the site through the Lucretius Today podcast, which I've been enjoying and binge-listening to for the last days/weeks; thanks for that, Cassius and friends. The views put forth there have been eye opening. It makes me glad to say that being exposed to these has made me feel more comfortable with many views I already held myself, some of which I lived by, but that were hard to reconcile with what my “philosophy of life” was until now, which is changing.

Where do I stand about Epicurean philosophy? I'm new to it, but I wouldn't say I'm still “on the fence”; I think I'm past it now, but I do have some questions I'm looking to answer.

Sadly I haven't been able to read a lot yet about epicurean philosophy. I've read enough to know that the popular understanding of Epicurus is mistaken. I was disappointed to see that most readily available resources don't go deeply enough to make it past the common places we all know about.

I later learned that Lucretius could be a valuable resource to learn more, and thus discovered the podcast. This is apparently opening a new world for me. I'm about to order a copy of Dewitt's book to more seriously start studying about this philosophy. What I've learnt so far I'm liking. I feel, after searching a lot, that I'm on my way to find a worldview that will actually make sense.

I say this because I am “recovering” from stoicism and religion.

It's easy to see how these can give you tools to cope with hardship. They can help you to find peace when in turmoil. But, putting that aside, there were many things that, for me, “didn't hold” in the long term.

As good as they can be as coping tools, I find them also having the potential for subjugation, rather than liberation. I think they can put you in a disposition to accept, a bit submissively, or with resignation, the lot that's been “given” to you. This, to me, makes it obvious why western religion borrows so much from stoicism.

But I'm not here only as a rebound from stoicism, but rather because epicurean philosophy, after going past the common places mostly talked about, seems promising as to having the potential to be a philosophy for the good life, achievable in a more practical and intuitive way. Thus, I wish to learn more about it, and hopefully one day be able to contribute to the conversations in this “garden” of the internet