

Welcome Camotero!

Post by "Don" of June 16, 2020 at 7:06 AM

Excellent posts! I've addressed some of your questions and statements below.

[Mathitis Kipouros](#) asked

First question: This is the 39th passage from what text? Are there any arguments related to it that could give a logical explanation of why this is the case?

This is the 39th Principle Doctrine as listed in Diogenes Laertius's 10th book of his Lives of Eminent Philosophers. That book is all about Epicurus and is one of the primary sources of Epicurus's works to survive from the ancient world. There are numerous translations online and the [Principal Doctrines](#) (Kuriai Doxai in Ancient Greek) are at the end of the book.

[Perseus Digital Library](#)

[Attalus' site](#)

[Epicurus Wiki](#)

[Mathitis Kipouros](#) said:

But I do recognize that we need to be aware of the limits. I was reading the other day that "complete" communication can only happen when two people are physically together.

This is actually a very interesting point and probably the reason there is the academic discipline of literary and textual criticism and interpretation. Without being able to see a person's body language, tone of voice, etc., there can be ambiguity even in the clearest writing even though sometimes it's all we have. Consider reading the Principle Doctrines as opposed to being in the Garden getting a lecture from Epicurus. Which would be the most "complete" way of receiving these teachings?

[Mathitis Kipouros](#) said:

So there's probably no point in starting a non profit to help the most people that you're probably never going to even meet (unless I'm going to get a lot of pleasure from the starting up of the organization, but this would be beside the point)

On the contrary, I think that's exactly the point. If you're going to be fulfilled by the starting of such an organization and will find pleasure in the work, then (I believe) Epicureanism would have no argument against your starting it up. You should still have a realistic expectation of the limits on the organization. However, also consider Epicurus' warning about the inherent pains of getting involved in politics and such if the organisation will take on a lobbying function in the political arena.

[Mathitis Kipouros](#) said:

Is there anything said within the philosophy about spreading its message? Oh my... I didn't mean to get evangelical... it just happened.



Actually, Epicureans *were* an evangelical bunch and their "good news" spread throughout the ancient world. There's a great (albeit depressing) book about the downfall of the ancient pagan world, including the burning of Epicurean texts: [The Darkening Age: The Christian Destruction of the Classical World by Catherine Nixey](#).