

Opportunities for Activism And Collaboration Here At EpicureanFriends.com

Post by “Mathitis Kipouros” of June 27, 2020 at 10:04 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Good thoughts. What word would you suggest as more appropriate than "activism"?

[Quote from Don](#)

but even DeWitt used it to describe Epicureanism.

That's what I was going to propose; looking if Dewitt proposed something.

[Quote from Don](#)

the word that maybe best describes what you're proposing is evangelism.

This came to mind as well. But I do think that, while evangelism has been used more often in secular contexts (it's even used in the to talk about the promotion of consumer products), it does have a religious load within it that may deter some people who would otherwise get interested and benefit from these "teachings towards living a good life".

Having said that, we do not need to go around using it in every propagandistic (talk about loaded terms) effort. It could be used as a word that "within the circle" is clearly defined as not religious, and used only in its secular connotation of bringing the good news; a connotation that, apparently is recognized (from the Wiktionary):

Etymology[\[edit\]](#)

From [Old French](#) *évangéliser*, from [Latin](#) *evangelizare*, from [Ancient Greek](#) *εὐαγγελίζω* (euangelízō)

Verb[\[edit\]](#)

evangelize (*third-person singular simple present* [evangelizes](#), *present participle* [evangelizing](#), *simple past and past participle* [evangelized](#))

1. To tell people about (a particular branch of) [Christianity](#), especially in order to [convert](#) them; to [preach](#) the [gospel](#) to. quotations ▼
2. **To preach any ideology to those who have not yet been converted to it.** quotations ▼
3. **To be [enthusiastic](#) about something, and to attempt to share that enthusiasm with others; to [promote](#).**

None of the ones I put in bold talk about having the goal of converting anyone, but rather more about where the effort is focused and that it implies some joy on the part of the promoter, which I guess are rather descriptive of what we're talking about in this thread.

So perhaps, if it were clearly stated, somewhere around the site, that the meaning of the word as used here absolutely does not imply the religious connotation, it could be used to clearly convey what we're talking about; and if we (as DeWitt does in his book about having a need to constantly remind of the falsehoods attributed to Epicurus) take the time to make the necessary clarification in the posts or communications more directed towards newer audiences, we would be diminishing the risk of confusion.

Apparently the word was coopted by religion later, but at the beginning it didn't have that religious connotation. I kept reading and I found this about its etymology:

Latin[[edit](#)]

Etymology[[edit](#)]

Late Latin borrowing from rare [Ancient Greek](#) [εὐαγγελίζω](#) (euangelízō), active voice variant of deponent [εὐαγγελίζομαι](#) (euangelízomai, “I bring good news; I preach the Gospel”), from [εὐ-](#) (eu-, “good”) + [ἄγγελος](#) (ángelos, “messenger, envoy”), of uncertain origin.

Ancient Greek[[edit](#)]

Etymology[[edit](#)]

Cognate with [Mycenaean Greek](#) [𐀀𐀃𐀆𐀓](#) (a-ke-ro), but origin uncertain. Probably a loanword, and probably related to [ἄγγαρος](#) (ángaros, “Persian mounted courier”) (whence [Latin](#) [angarius](#)), which is probably from an East Asian language...

Noun[[edit](#)]

ἄγγελος • (ángelos) m (*genitive* [ἄγγέλου](#)); *second declension* ([Epic](#), [Attic](#), [Ionic](#), [Doric](#), [Koine](#))

1. a [messenger](#)
2. **one that announces**
3. (*later*) [angel](#), [heavenly spirit](#)