

KDF's Epicurean Outline

Post by "KDF" of March 25, 2018 at 10:58 AM

Thank you for allowing me to post on this forum. I would very much appreciate your feedback on my outline. It might be relevant to mention that I am fairly new to epicureanism. I happened upon (or more accurately re-happened upon after a 20+ year interval) Epicurus with a rush of satisfaction. I found epicurienism to be very consistent with my world view and principals.

A.) The Nature of the Universe

1. The universe is indifferent to the cares and wants of conscious beings
2. We live in a deterministic universe. There is no free will, but as conscious beings that can never be aware of our own lack of free will, this lack is not relevant to how we find meaning in our lives. (I think that Christopher Hithchens put it best when he said that he believes in free will, because he "has no choice.")

B.) Knowledge / Truth

1. We know what we can observe with our senses or has been passed on to us at a genetic level
2. There are biological limits to what we can know and observe (this does not imply a non-material universe)

C.) Ethics / How to Live

1. There is no absolute morality
2. Happiness is the ultimate goal to life
3. Financial independence greatly improves, but is not essential to, an individuals ability to attain happiness (I think that if Epicurus lived today that PDs 6, 7, 21, 39, & 40 would have referenced having F-U Money)
4. By reducing wants and needs one can greatly improve one's ability to achieve financial independence
5. All that we should ask from society is to ensure that no one be compelled by force to do anything against one's will
6. One has the ability to remove resentment and self-pity from one's thinking; removing resentment and self-pity greatly improves happiness
7. One should not suffer a contradiction in their principals; self-deception is the root of much unhappiness