

The Dangers of Misdirected Increase of Knowledge

Post by "Cassius" of October 9, 2020 at 1:30 PM

[Quote from Susan Hill](#)

In this way, one may spend an entire lifetime in devoted study and contemplation of a theology or metaphysics that may have a mountain of books written about it by very intelligent people, yet have no practical value or means of personal verification in this lifetime.

On this point, for a long form answer which hits this home very hard, I recommend Lucian's "HERMOTIMUS" -- <https://newepicurean.com/suggested-read...ian-hermotimus/>

I consider Lucian to be thoroughly Epicurean, and this dialog is both fun to read and I think does a very good job of explaining a part of the answer the Epicurus would give to Susan's comment here.

In the dialog, Lycinus (who I think speaks for the Epicurean position) confronts Hermotimus (a student of Stoicism) about the pursuit of his studies. The dialog explores the dangers of and issues in "spending an entire lifetime in devoted study and contemplation ... yet find ... no practical value or means of personal verification.... of the result.