

"Facts don't care about your feelings."

Post by "Don" of November 6, 2020 at 11:31 PM

I'll admit my understanding of Aristotle is sketchy. One thing that attracts me to him is his penchant for assembling information and research from as many sources as possible. From what I know, he invented entire fields of science, especially biology. That appeals to me: the research-oriented aspect of Aristotle. He based a lot of his "science" work on observation. Later philosophers and theologians would take Aristotle's work as dogma and forget to observe nature themselves.

That being said, I think his idea that eudaimonia is largely dependent on luck and one's station in life is elitist and not much help to society at large. His focus on virtue and fulfilling your telos seems ill-suited to people finding his philosophy useful.

Maybe I'm weighing Epicureanism against a general humanism or secularism, but I feel (there's that word) I need a comprehensive philosophy. Something to study and practice.

What attracted me initially to Epicurus?

His was the only ancient Greek school to admit - even welcome - women. He didn't need any gods. Pleasure as the goal made sense: carpe diem "pluck the day" was attractive. It seemed like a down to earth philosophy but also had depth.

As a librarian, I have to see objective reality (Earth is round) honored, so I struggle with that word feeling. That's why I've been so adamant about translating pathē as reaction. I still think sometimes in absolutes like "human rights" etc. But I'm coming around to the social contract and contextual nature of all "rights." I find George Carlin's quote intriguing:

Quote

Rights aren't rights if someone can take them away. They're privileges. That's all we've ever had in this country, is a bill of temporary privileges.

That seems to be the same thing Epicurus was saying sort of. We need to agree on what justice is then work to uphold that agreement.

Sorry. This went a little afield. I hope in sheds a little light on my current predicament.