

Welcome Dubitator314

Post by “Cassius” of August 18, 2019 at 4:05 PM

Welcome [Dubitator314](#) ! When you get a chance please tell us about your background and interest in Epicurus.

Post by “Dubitator314” of August 18, 2019 at 11:36 PM

Thanks Cassius. I am a co-leader of a Stoic group. In the course of time I became interested in their rival philosophy, Epicureanism. Not everything Epicurus said resonates with me, but the overall hedonistic claim that we all pursue pleasure and avoid pain seemed commonsensical. I once made the point in the group that we were all studying Stoicism because we thought that doing so would reduce mental pain in our lives. That it would lead to tranquility. In short, if we were honest with ourselves, in my opinion, we would admit that living virtuously was a means to an end. The end being to reduce pain and increase pleasure in life.

Since then I've been slowly reading more about hedonism. Right now I'm reading [The Birth of Hedonism: The Cyrenaic Philosophers and Pleasure as a Way of Life](#) by Kurt Lampe.

Post by “Godfrey” of August 19, 2019 at 1:57 AM

Welcome Dubitator314! too discovered Epicurus through Stoicism, via Cicero. It bothered me that many modern Stoics basically discard large parts of their philosophy (physics and logic, specifically) as irrelevant in today's world. The philosophy of Epicurus seems to me to be a well integrated system. And, as you say, pleasure is a more sensible goal than virtue: virtue being a means to an end. Also atomism, to me, is much more sensible and relevant than providence.

Writing a personal outline was extremely helpful for me to begin to more fully understand and appreciate the philosophy. If you haven't done it, you might check out the Personal Outline section of the forum at: [Personal Outlines of Epicurean Philosophy](#)

for examples.

Post by “Cassius” of August 19, 2019 at 6:24 AM

Allow me Dubitator to hit my repetitive first note and urge you to read Norman Dewitt's take on Epicurus in "Epicurus and His Philosophy." It is a different enough take as to seem almost a different philosophy when presented by Dewitt in full, and as a sweeping response to Plato, rather than in the modern standard "tranquility-focused version sponsored by O'Keefe and the Cambridge books.

And if you have time, the [Boris Nikolsky article available in the forum here](#), as well as the exhaustive review by Gosling and Taylor in "The Greeks on Pleasure," of which [this is a part](#). Both provide ample corroboration of DeWitt's take.

Post by “Martin” of August 19, 2019 at 9:42 AM

Welcome Dubitator314!

Post by “Hiram” of August 19, 2019 at 4:16 PM

[Dubitator314](#) welcome to the group. I wrote a review of Lanpe's book : <http://societyofepicurus.com/cyrenaic-reasonings/>