

# Catherine Wilson

## Quotes

*People, Moral, Animal, Philosophy, Children, Justice, Political, Pain, Simple,  
Benefits, Roles, Agreement, Evil, Class, Moving, Decision, Arguing, Atoms,  
Progress, Beautiful*

The Epicureans denied that the gods had created the world and also denied that they played any role in it.

~Catherine Wilson

The higher the coefficient of inequality (Gini coefficient) in a society, the worse things tend to be for those at the bottom.

~Catherine Wilson

Moral claims aren't, as a class, truth-value apt or not.

~Catherine Wilson

A moral rule is essentially 'advantage-reducing.' It prohibits you doing something you could do that would serve your interests at someone else's expense.

~Catherine Wilson

The (atomic) soul is mortal, and the best life is the one with the least pain and the most pleasure.

~Catherine Wilson

Even if the gods did exist, the Epicureans argued, they didn't care about us. Rather, everything comes from nature, and all that really exists are atoms and void, moving and congregating.

~Catherine Wilson

There are people who organise the contest, winners, losers, and people who benefit from the contest taking place.

~Catherine Wilson

We need grief as a precursor to emotional refreshment, and so consume it vicariously in somewhat titrated but powerful enough form through engagement with the arts.

~Catherine Wilson

It used to be that nobody would really argue with a woman, because what she thought (unless it was by way of providing helpful comments about one's own work) just didn't matter.

~Catherine Wilson

There's nothing a priori good about equality. One person has three televisions, the other has two, so what?

~Catherine Wilson

Atomism had no absolute 'above' and 'below' and no such rulers, so favoured the understanding of justice as an agreement amongst equals.

~Catherine Wilson

Epicurus thought of justice as an agreement to prevent people harming and being harmed.

~Catherine Wilson

Epicurus recommends bread and cheese as the staple, and his emphasis is more on avoiding pain than on seeking pleasure, insofar as pleasure-seeking tends to be followed by painful after-effects.

~Catherine Wilson

Epicurus was not at all interested in what we would call the problems of mass society, and he thought civic politics was just trouble and to be avoided by the wise.

~Catherine Wilson

Epicurus was in favour of friendly sex but not of grand passions or marriage and children, viewing them as sources of trouble and vexation.

~Catherine Wilson

I have to say that some philosophers such as the late Bernard Williams,

and I would include myself in this group, would say that tranquillity is overrated as the goal of life.

~Catherine Wilson

We have to gamble, and sometimes lose as George Ainslie argues; this keeps the appetite for life sharp.

~Catherine Wilson

'Contract' succeeded 'status' as the basic organising principle in modern political vs. ancient society.

~Catherine Wilson

I think we do have a better understanding now of how moral thought and discourse function.

~Catherine Wilson

The life-world of human and animal experience, with colours, tastes, solid objects, is a perceptual effect of massed atoms.

~Catherine Wilson

Claims like 'Slavery is wrong' are not fully common-sensical, so they must be at least partly theoretical.

~Catherine Wilson

I had the idea that there were secret laws of the universe that could explain the baffling human reality around me, and that philosophers maybe had the key to them.

~Catherine Wilson

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