

# Welcome DistantLaughter!

**Post by “Cassius” of July 12, 2025 at 8:17 PM**

I see that we had some discussion of the Preuss book and position back in 2019 at the thread linked [here](#).

I don't have time to do an exhaustive review of the full Preuss book right now, but I've had a few minutes to look at certain parts, and I'll set up a new thread for future discussion of it.

I'm very aware that it's not very polite to say negative things about a book that someone has just praised, 😊 but I'm going to count on your exhaustive reading as good evidence that you're familiar with how much difference of opinion there is on this issue. I've clipped a couple of points where Pruess attacks the opinions of Sedley and Long, and Gosling & Taylor, and maybe over time we can extend the thread further. I see that Pruess also doesn't think that Epicurus was certain that there is no life after death, so like every other book it's a good idea for new readers to use caution in prejudging before reading the whole thing. Clearly it contains a lot of good citations so it's a valuable contribution no matter what one ends up concluding about it.

I've seen no reason since 2019 to change my opinion that it's a dramatic and harmful misreading to elevate katastematic pleasure to the goal of Epicurean philosophy. If anything, I feel more strongly than ever about that. However it's very helpful to step through the logic involved in arguing for and against that position. To the extent our current group of regulars is interested, now is as good a time as any reopen that conversation. It's an issue that will very likely always be with us, so it's good to have an opportunity to go through it again.

Here's the new thread - [Preuss - "Epicurean Ethics - Katastematic Hedonism"](#)