

# Authorized Doctrines by Norman W. De Witt

Post by “Eikadistes” of September 6, 2021 at 11:09 AM

## Authorized Doctrines

### Norman W. De Witt

*I was unable to identify Authorized Doctrines 11, 15, 17, 24, 25, 26, 30, 33, 37, and 38 in De Witt's two works, Epicurus and His Philosophy (1954) and St. Paul and Epicurus (1954) from which I verified the below translations. — Nate*

**PD01.a** “The blissful and incorruptible being neither knows trouble itself nor occasions trouble to another, and is consequently immune to either anger or gratitude, for all such emotions reside in a weak creature.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 252)

**PD01.b** “The blessed and incorruptible being neither knows tribulation itself nor occasions it to another; it is consequently immune to feelings of either anger or gratitude, for all such emotion signifies a weak creature.” (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 187)

**PD02.** “[Death is nothing to us](#), because dissolution means unconsciousness and unconsciousness is nothing to us.” (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 187)

**PD03.** “The removal of all pain is the limit of the magnitude of pleasures. And wherever the experience of pleasure is present, so long as it prevails, there is no pain or distress or a combination of them.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 226, 241, 246)

**PD04.** “Pain does not prevail continuously in the flesh but the peak of it is present for the briefest interval, and the pain that barely exceeds the pleasure in the flesh is not with us many days, while protracted illnesses have an excess of pleasure over pain in the flesh.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 244)

**PD05.** “It is impossible to live pleasurably without living according to reason, honor and justice, nor to live according to reason, honor, and justice without living pleasurably.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 184, 246)

**PD06.a** “As for the assurance of safety from the attacks of men, by virtue of the nature of political dominion and kingly power this is a good thing, no matter by whose aid one is able to procure it.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 79)

**PD06.b** "Political rule and kingly power being what they are, it is a good thing to feel secure in human relations no matter through whose agency one is able to attain this." (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 187)

**PD07.a** "Some men have chosen to become celebrities and to be in the public eye, thinking thus to achieve security from the attacks of men. Consequently, if the lives of such men are safe, they have reaped the end of Nature, but if their lives are not safe, they lack that for the sake of which at the outset they reached out by the instinct of Nature." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 189)

**PD07.b** Some men wish to gain reputation and to be in the public eye, thinking by this means to win security from the attacks of men. Consequently, if the lives of these men are safe they have achieved the end ordained by Nature; if, on the contrary, their lives are not safe they lack that for which at the outset they reached out in obedience to an instinct of Nature." (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 187)

**PD08.** "No pleasure is evil in itself but the practices productive of certain pleasures bring troubles in their train that by many times outweigh the pleasures themselves." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 235)

**PD09.** "If every pleasure were alike condensed in duration and associated with the whole organism or the dominant parts of it, pleasures would never differ from one another." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 235)

**PD10.** "If the practices productive of the pleasures of profligates dispelled the fears of the mind about celestial things and death and pains and also taught the limit of the desires, we should never have fault to find with profligates, enjoying pleasures to the full from all quarters, and suffering neither pain nor distress from any quarter, wherein the evil lies." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 235)

**PD11.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD12.** "It is impossible for men to dispel the fear concerning things of supreme importance not understanding the nature of the whole universe but suspecting there may be some truth in the stories related in the myths. Consequently it is impossible without the knowledge of Nature to enjoy the pleasures unalloyed." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 305)

**PD13.a** "Nothing is gained by building up the feeling of security in our relations with men if the things above our heads and those beneath the earth and in general those in the unseen are matters of suspicion." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 305)

**PD13.b** "It is of no avail to have established security in human relations if things above and in the earth beneath and those in the infinite universe in general are viewed with uncertainty." (St. Paul 188)

**PD14.a** “Although safety from the attacks of men has been secured to a certain degree by dynastic protection and abundance of means, that which comes of the retired life and withdrawal from the multitude is the most unalloyed” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 189)

**PD14.b** “Even though security from the injuries of men may have been established to a certain degree by dynastic protection, the most unalloyed feeling of security is to be found in the retired life and withdrawal from the multitude.” (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 188)

**PD15.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD16.** “Fortune plays but little part in the life of a wise man and the things that are of most value and consequence are subject to arrangement by rational planning, and throughout the whole extent of life are subject and will be subject to it.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 177-178)

**PD17.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD18.** “The pleasure in the flesh is incapable of increase when once the pain arising from need has been removed but is merely embellished. As for the mind, its limit of pleasure is begotten by reasoning out these very problems and those akin to these, all that once created the worst fears for the mind.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 227-228)

**PD19.** “Infinite time and finite time are characterized by equal pleasure, if one measures the limits of pleasure by reason.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 229)

**PD20.** “It is the flesh that finds the limits of pleasure boundless and infinite time would have been required to furnish it, but the intelligence, taking into the calculation the end and limit of the flesh and dispelling the fears about eternity, renders the whole life is perfect.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 225)

**PD21.a** “The man who has discerned the limited needs of life is aware how easy of procurement is that which removes the pain arising from want and renders the whole life perfect, so that he feels no need of adding things that involve competition.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 186)

**PD21.b** “The man who discerns the narrow limits of life's needs will understand how easy it is to procure what removes the discomfort arising from want, so that he feels no necessity of engaging in activities that involve competition.” (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 72)

**PD22.** “We must take into our reckoning the established telos of all manifest evidence, to which we refer our judgments; otherwise all life will be filled with indecision and unrest.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 152)

**PD23.** “If you are going to make war on all the sensations, you will not even have a standard by reference to which you shall judge those of them which you say are deceptive.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 140-141)

**PD24.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD25.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD26.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD27.a** “Of all the preparations that wisdom makes for the blessedness of the perfect life by far the most precious is the acquisition of friendship.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 190)

**PD27.b** “Of all the preparations which wisdom makes for the blessedness of the complete life by far the most important is the acquisition of friendship.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 308)

**PD27.c** “Of all the preparations that wisdom makes for the blessedness of the perfect life, by far the most important is the acquisition of friendship.” (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 188)

**PD28.a** “The same argument that assures us of nothing terrible lasting forever or even very long discerns the protection furnished by friendship in this brief life of ours as being the most dependable of all.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 293-294)

**PD28.b** “The same conviction that makes us feel confident of nothing terrible being either eternal or even of long duration discerns the assurance of safety within the narrow limits of this life itself as being most perfectly effected by friendship.” (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 188)

**PD29.** “Of the desires some are natural and necessary; some are natural but not necessary; and others are neither natural nor necessary.” (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 18)

**PD30.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD31.** “The justice of Nature is a covenant of advantage to the end that men shall not injure one another nor be injured.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 147)

**PD32.** “To all animate creatures that have been unable to make the covenants about not injuring one another or being injured nothing is just nor unjust either; this statement holds equally true for all human races that have been unable or unwilling to make the covenant about not injuring or being injured.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 295)

**PD33.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD34.a** “Wrong-doing is not an evil in and by itself; the evil lies in the uneasy feeling, amounting to fear, that he will not escape detection by those appointed for the punishment of such offenses.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 153)

**PD34.b** “Injustice is not an evil in and by itself but the evil lies in the fear arising out of the uncertainty that he will not escape detection by those appointed for the punishment of such offenses.” (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 296)

**PD34.c** "Violating the law is not an evil in itself but the evil lies in the uneasy feeling, of the nature of fear, that he may not escape detection by those appointed for the punishment of such offenses." (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus*, 122)

**PD35.** "It is impossible for the man who does one of those things which they have covenanted with one another not to do, in order to avoid injuring and being injured, to be confident he will escape, even though for the moment he shall escape numberless times, for till the end it will be uncertain if he will really escape." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 297)

**PD36.** "So far as the universal concept is concerned, Justice is the same for all, for it is a kind of advantage int he life they share with one another, but in respect of the particulars of place and all affecting circumstances whatsoever it does not follow that the same thing is just for all." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 296)

**PD37.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD38.** *Undocumented in De Witt's works?*

**PD39.a** "That man has best forestalled the feeling of insecurity from outside who makes relations friendly where possible, where impossible, at least neutral, and where even this is impossible, avoids contacts, and in alt cases where it pays to do so arranges for dynastic support." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 309)

**PD39.b** "That man has best established the feeling of security from external hazards who has made his relationships friendly wherever possible; where this has been impossible has made them at least not unfriendly; and wherever even this has been impossible avoids contacts; and wherever it paid him to do so has arranged dynastic protection." (De Witt, *St. Paul and Epicurus* 188)

**PD40.** "All those who have best succeeded in building up the ability to feel secure from the attacks of those around them have lived the happiest lives with one another, as having the firmest faith." (De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 304)