

Happy Birthday, Frances Wright!

Post by "Cassius" of September 7, 2021 at 8:58 AM

[Quote from Paquin](#)

Happy birthday! I'm looking forward to reading *A Few Days in Athens* after finishing the Lucretius podcast.

In many ways it is excellent; in some ways it is disappointing. We have some good commentary in it in our section on Frances Wright, including some pretty blunt (but I think accurate) criticism of it by Elayne. [Problems in Frances Wright's "A Few Days in Athens"](#)

There is much additional good material in that subforum as well.

First, to repeat, there's a lot of good material in it and it is well worth reading, which is why it's on our reading list. However:

In general, the issue is that some people are turned off by the "flowery" writing style of the early chapters. That doesn't strike me as too serious a flaw (I ignore it as an aspect of the style of that time) but there are more serious issues too. Frances Wright doesn't seem to follow Epicurus on "agency," nor does she go by the book on the existence of the "gods." Most interestingly, she hints at (and carries further in some later writing) her view that we need to be so careful of "theories" that we essentially reject all of them. If carried to an extreme (as perhaps she did in her later writing) this can itself turn into a form of skepticism that I think went well beyond what Epicurus taught.