

# Welcome SmoothieKiwi!

**Post by "Cassius" of January 6, 2022 at 12:57 PM**

Thank you for that intro!

I hope you will have DeWitt on your list, and that you will consider the [Nikolsky](#) article and the Gosling & Taylor book thereafter.

As many eyes as we can get on these issues the better off we are!

It's interesting that you were so impacted by the Frances Wright book. It's incredibly impressive as you say, but in itself it leads to some interesting issues (that we have some threads on here at the forum). Since you are focusing on its attack on Stoicism, I think you would also be interested in the sections of Cicero's "On Ends" that are attacks on Stoicism. So many people consider him to have been a stoic but those sections of On Ends make some excellent anti-Stoic points from an unexpected direction.

Based on what you wrote if I were you I would probably NOT read the full Lucretius poem next - I would read DeWitt and the ones I mentioned above to further assist in the overall framework.

## [Quote from smoothiekiwi](#)

Not in the sense that pleasure isn't the thing we should employ to determine what is good or bad, but because there's something resulting out of this belief that transforms a regular man into Gandalf, so to speak.

It might be that further explanation of the Gandalf analogy would be helpful. I am familiar with Lord of the Rings but not enough to be sure exactly what you mean or draw from the analogy.