

"A Few Days In Athens" Zoom Book Club Meeting #1: Who Was Frances Wright, Introduction, and Chapter One (Jan 30 8:00 PM EST) (Sun, Jan 30th 2022, 8:00 pm-9:00 pm)

Post by "Cassius" of January 30, 2022 at 9:38 PM

Joshua's outline was so good we need a copy here. It's not well formatted like the PDF, but good enough:

Chapter 1 Outline

I. Begins In Media Res, in the middle of things

A. Theon's Soliloquy

i. Appeal to the gods

ii. "Corrupting the youth"

iii. "Forsaking the Portico

B. Characteristics of the "Gargettian", per Timocrates

i. Blasphemer, Seducer, Deceiver

ii. Master of "cursed ceremonies of riot and impiety"

iii. "nocturnal horrors"

II. Meeting the Stranger

A. Theon leaves the noisy crowded city, for the restful peace of nature

i. Seats himself by the Cephisus

ii. Interrupted by the gentle sound of footsteps

iii. Extensive description of the (evident) sage

III. Their Conversation

A. On Zeno

i. "a school of real virtue"

- ii. "I had rather be the companion than the master"
- iii. Theon; "I have looked upon Zeno with admiration and despair"
- iv. "He who but admires virtue, yields her but half her due"
- v. Can we rival Zeno? Yes: with;
 - 1. Innocence
 - 2. Sensibility
 - 3. Enthusiasm
 - 4. Ambition
 - 5. Courage
 - 6. Will
- vi. All men cannot be poets and philosophers, but can be virtuous

Cephisus-A river god. Father
of Eteocles, first mortal to
worship the three Graces,
attendants of Aphrodite (and
sometimes Apollo)

B. On Epicurus

- i. "What a loss for man that you are not teacher in the garden"
- ii. "...I shall never be seduced by the advocate of vice"
- iii. "I (Epicurus) would have you attend all the schools, with a willing ear"
- iv. Even the garden itself

C. On Timocrates

- i. "To hear virtue denied? Vice advocated? Atheism professed? Nocturnal Orgies!?"
- ii. "I (Epicurus) should apprehend Timocrates to be a little mistaken"
- iii. And quite possibly a liar
 - 1. It is easy to get away with lies when you tell absurdities

iv. The first and last thing is to think for yourself

D. "I am Epicurus