

# Episode 191 - Cicero's On Ends - Book One - Part 02

Post by "Don" of September 15, 2023 at 11:14 PM

Great episode. I really like the readings of the text interspersed with the discussion. That helps to keep things on track and keeps the text close to the commentary. Nicely done.

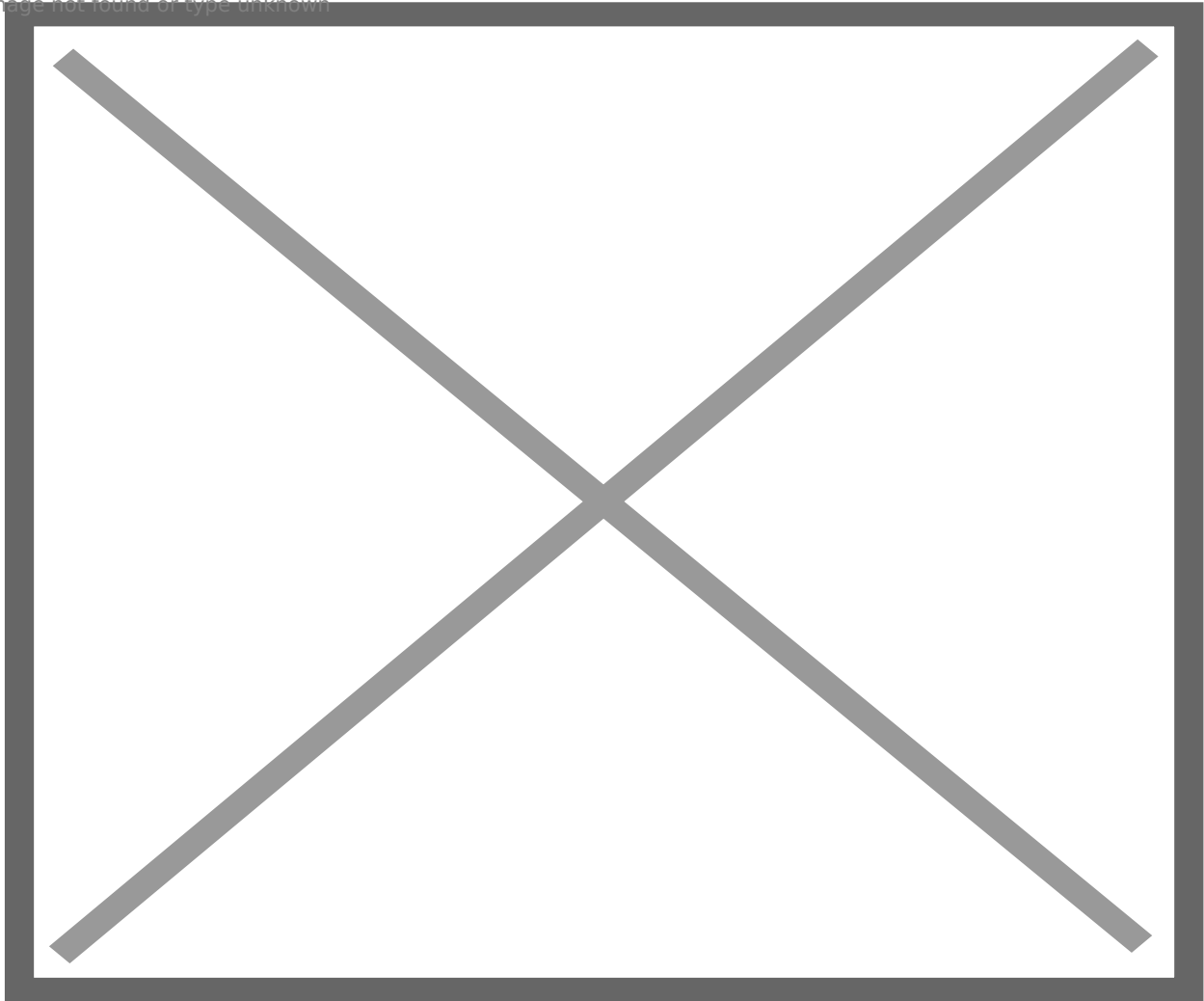
Some thoughts and additional resources:

For those who have the fortune to have NOT seen the bumper sticker that [Joshua](#) was talking about in the episode:



The discussion of death has prompted me to share some resources on the "death positive" movement - started in the 1970s - that tries to bring conversations about death and dying to wider audience:

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[Death Positive Movement | The Order of the Good Death](http://www.orderofthegooddeath.com)

Building a meaningful, eco-friendly, and equitable end of life.

[www.orderofthegooddeath.com](http://www.orderofthegooddeath.com)

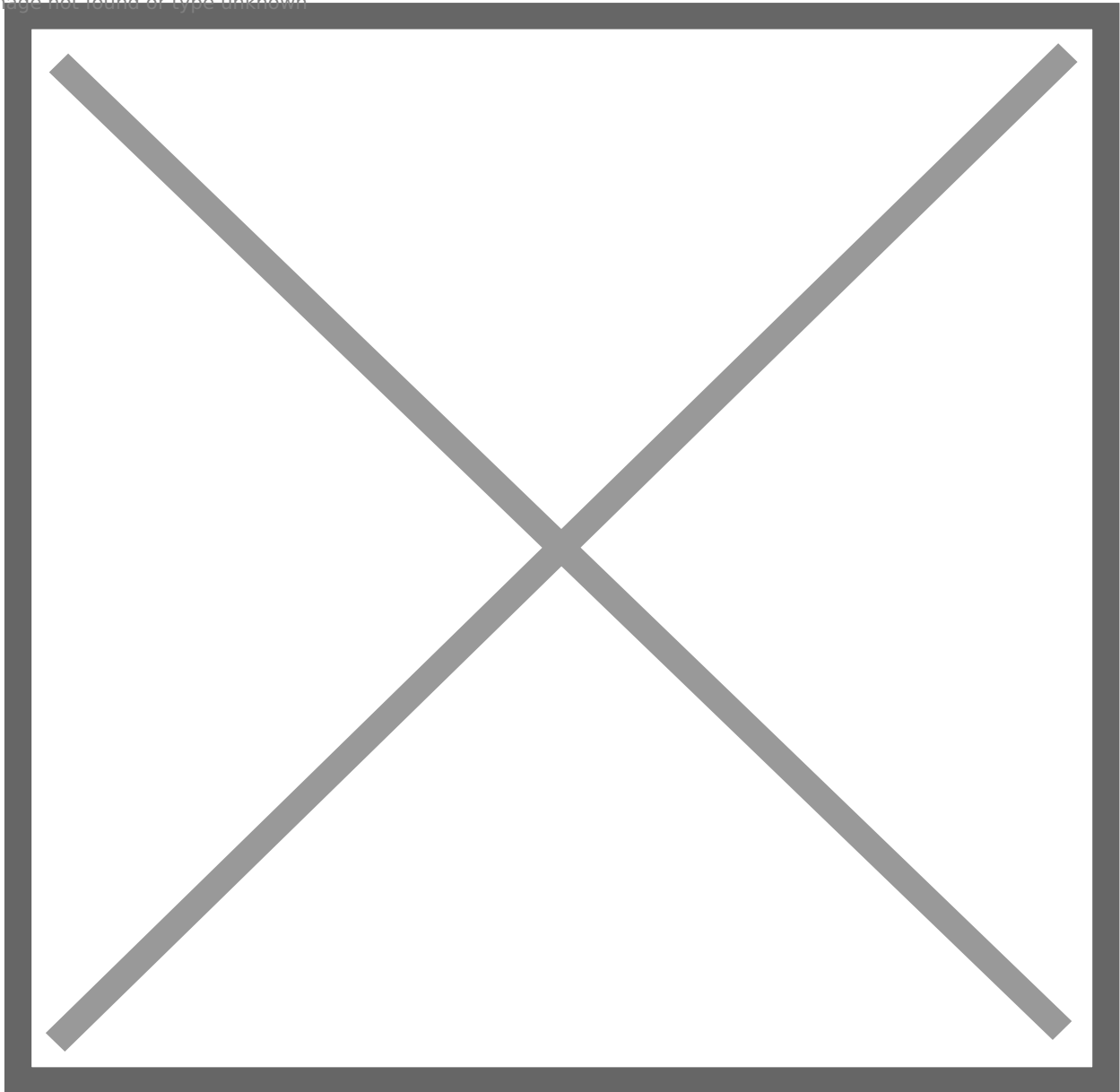
(also has a page of resources)

<https://caitlindoughty.com/>

(one of the well-known authors, speakers, and YouTube personalities of the movement)

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3313-episode-191-cicero-s-on-ends-book-one-part-02/?postID=26014#post26014>

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### [A Lively Party Game to Share Stories and Beliefs About Death](#)

The Death Deck is a new party game that lets you tap into stories and ideas you've never heard your friends and family share before about life and death!

[thedeathdeck.com](http://thedeathdeck.com)

(a way to engage conversations about the topic)

Great conversation at the end about the necessity of philosophy!

#### [Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Is philosophy the love of knowledge or is it the love of wisdom?

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3313-episode-191-cicero-s-on-ends-book-one-part-02/?postID=26014#post26014>

This is a great question. Technically and etymologically, philosophy is literally "the love of wisdom" > philia + sophia

φιλία philia "affectionate regard, friendship"

σοφία sophia

- skill or cleverness in carpentry, music, or other crafts
- skill related to everyday life: sound judgment, prudence
- knowledge of a higher kind: learning, wisdom

So, technically, philosophy is having an affectionate regard, a friendship if you will, with wisdom in the sense of having sound judgement, and putting that 'wisdom' into practical use in being skilled in living.

I think I agree, in part, with both [Joshua](#) and [Kalosyni](#) . I do think people can be happy, or at least feel happy, without "studying philosophy." And I can see Joshua's hesitancy in trying to tell people they're not \*really\* happy, they just think they are. They \*really\* need XYZ to be \*really\* happy; otherwise, they're fooling themselves. That does seem condescending. I know better than you, so to speak.

However...

I think a lot of people don't even think about if they're happy or not if you would ask them the question "Are you happy?" "Sure, I'm happy." If you start asking them questions (IF they are amenable to questions being asked!), they might find that they have subconscious biases, fears, anxieties, etc., that are curtailing their potential happiness. I think there could be degrees of being conscious of one's happiness.

That's what the study of "a philosophy" (not just "philosophy") can provide: A framework within which to study one's preconceptions, to think about big questions, to find ways of questioning or to find some answers.

I think people can become fondly acquainted with practical wisdom on their own and be happy... up to a point. And maybe that point works for them. I don't think we can second-guess people if they say they are feeling happy or content... But I also don't think we have to take people's verbal assurance at face value. Sometimes we have to ask, "Are you trying to convince me or yourself that you're happy?"

#### [Quote from Kalosyni](#)

can we say that the goal in ancient times was to discover the best way to live a good life?

(And in comparison, that there are other goals in modern philosophy).

It seems to be that philosophical schools in ancient Greece worked a little like churches do nowadays. Schools had definite paths to follow, they "fought" with rival schools for "converts," you could "convert" from being a Stoic to being an Epicurean, and so on. Each thought they taught the best way to live and actively promulgated their doctrines ...believing that they had the best way to live!

Modern philosophy as an academic discipline is far removed from this mode, although more and more academics and practitioners are trying to get back to that old Greek way of thinking about philosophical paths... present company included!