

Episode 200 - Lucretius Today 200th Episode - Retrospective, Recap, and Looking To The Future

Post by "Cassius" of October 30, 2023 at 3:04 AM

Welcome to Episode 200 of Lucretius Today. This is a podcast dedicated to the poet Lucretius, who wrote "On The Nature of Things," the only complete presentation of Epicurean philosophy left to us from the ancient world. Each week we walk you through the Epicurean texts, and we discuss how Epicurean philosophy can apply to you today. If you find the Epicurean worldview attractive, we invite you to join us in the study of Epicurus at [EpicureanFriends.com](https://www.epicureanfriends.com), where you will find a discussion thread for each of our podcast episodes and many other topics.

This week we present you a retrospective of our past work and where we plan to go in the future

Episode Topics:

- **Starting January 11, 2020**
- Episodes 1-51 were devoted to a line-by-line reading of [Lucretius' "On The Nature of Things."](#)
- **Starting January 2, 2021**
- Episodes 51-92 were devoted to a line-by-line reading of [Lucretius' "On The Nature of Things."](#)
- Episodes 93 -104 were devoted to a reading of the [Torquatus narrative of Epicurean Philosophy](#) from Cicero's "On Ends."
- **Starting January 7, 2022**
- Episodes 104 -111 were devoted to a reading of the [Torquatus narrative of Epicurean Philosophy](#) from Cicero's "On Ends."
- Episodes 112 -125 were devoted to [Epicurus' Letter to Herodotus](#).
- Episodes 127 -133 were devoted to [Epicurus' Letter to Pythocles](#).
- Episodes [134](#) -140 were devoted to [Epicurus' Letter to Menoeceus](#).
- Episodes 141 -144 were devoted to [Diogenes of Oinoanda](#).
- Episodes 145 - 154 were been devoted to a book review of Norman DeWitt's "Epicurus and His Philosophy."
- **Starting January 2, 2023**
- Episodes 155 - 189 were been devoted to continued review of Norman DeWitt's "Epicurus and His Philosophy."
- Episodes 156 -157 were devoted to an interview of **Dr. Emily Austin**, author of "Living For Pleasure."
- Episode 166 of was devoted to an interview with **Dr. David Glidden** on Epicurean Prolepsis.

- Episodes 190 through the present have been devoted to a detailed review of Cicero's On Ends Books One and Two.
- Episode 197 was devoted to an interview with **Dr. Marcello Boeri**, co-author of the book "Epicurean Political Philosophy - Theory and Practice."

I think the topics you suggested earlier don't make the most sense.

I'll introduce the session as a retrospective of this being our 200th episode and then we can discuss much of what you suggested:

- Opening thanks to all podcasters and listeners and those who participated by asking questions and leaving comments on the forum
- We'll look back at the different series that we undertook
 - Lucretius
 - Letters of Epicurus
 - Diogenes of Oinoanda
 - The Torquatus narrative
 - Book Two of On Ends
 - The Dewitt Book
 - The Interviews
 - Emily Austin
 - David Glidden
 - Marcello Boeri
 - A Few Days In Athens (not official part of the podcast series but closely tangential)
 - Our recommendations for sequence of reading
 - List of controversial philosophical issues that still need exploring ways to state them better
 - The proper perspective on reason and propositional logic
 - The proper perspective on "length of life" issues (how long to live?)
 - The proper perspective on whether there is any objective way to rank or decide among pleasure (including katastematic and kinetic) or is it all purely personal?
 - The proper meaning of "absence of pain" (all feelings which are not pain are pleasure?)
 - Others?
 - *Challenges*
 - Keeping the focus on big picture issues and not pursuing too many rabbits too far down their holes.
 - Accommodating people who are just beginning to read Epicurus while also holding interest of those who are experienced
 - Avoiding eclecticism and combination with Stoicism, Buddhism, "Humanism," etc.
 - Deferring and diverting to other places divisive local (partisan political) issues that are not truly part of the core philosophy (applying a "no politics" rule to

discussions while also acknowledging that individual action in "local" issues is a necessary part of life)

- Avoiding Frances Wright burnout / shooting star syndrome
- *Future plans*
 - Supporting an ongoing "scheme of contemplation" in the form of a structure of daily reading or other participation that reinforces good habits
 - Organizing access to hard-to-find texts and fragments
 - Encouraging wider personal participation by those who wish to pursue it
 - Sustaining the effort over time as older participants retire or pass away
 - Interesting people in Epicurus at a younger age
 - "Advertising" or getting word of the project out beyond our current audience
 - Use of Facebook or other social media and other options.

We're planning a special episode for our 200th podcast, to be recorded on November 5, 2023.

In the meantime, here's an amateurish video put together before we started, in October of 2019. Maybe in the future we can do a better one.

I bet some of you didn't realize that our theme song has a middle section!

<https://youtu.be/bkoS6Rb5z04>

<https://www.spreaker.com/episode/57584963>