

Welcome JJEibert!

Post by “Joshua” of May 28, 2019 at 10:26 AM

Thank you, Cassius.

I am Joshua, a native of Sioux City, Iowa. I'm a long-haul trucker with a BA in the humanities (a double major in History and English Literature, more specifically).

My early education was concerned mostly with history and political theory, but I was an early reader of the stoics, picking up the *Meditations* in the same week as my high school graduation. In the years that followed I diverged from history in my pleasure reading. I got into Thoreau rather heavily, reading everything he ever published, and followed that thread through *Walden* to the East. Having long since abandoned the Catholicism of my boyhood, I began to devour the great scriptures of the world--the *Bhagavat Gita*, the *Upanishads*, the *Dhammapada* and the sutras of Buddhism. The Chinese classics; *Analects*, *Tao Te Ching*, *Chuang Tzu*. In the meantime I had the opportunity to travel; to Greece, to Italy, to the British Isles.

I began to feel in the end that my own Frank denial of metaphysical idealism and the supernatural were incompatible with this reading. I was an "internet atheist", and without a home East or West. I had, of course, known by then of a materialist school that had flourished in Greece for a time, but its hedonism was repugnant to my sensibilities. I had never read its works.

When a Harvard Professor I quite admired (from *Will in the World*) wrote a book on Epicureanism, I was intrigued. I read it. I read it again. I ordered a copy of Lucretius and read that; and when I soon after read the seminal work of Norman Wentworth DeWitt, I was converted. It was strange; I had been to Herculaneum. To Athens. How had I missed all this?

I consume a lot of audiobooks on the road, but there are four paperbacks by my bed. One is *Walden*. The other three are Lucretius, DeWitt, and Frances Wright. I, too, am an Epicurean!