

Welcome DistantLaughter!

Post by “DistantLaughter” of July 12, 2025 at 4:32 PM

Thank you for the warm welcome Cassius and Kalosyni!

I came across this forum while searching for Epicurean material on YouTube and was pleased to find such a focused and active community. Many thanks to Cassius for compiling and sharing such a rich body of resources—it's already proven incredibly helpful.

I'm currently reading *Epicurus and His Philosophy* by Norman DeWitt and have read a range of both primary and secondary texts, including the *Letter to Menoeceus*, Lucretius, and Diogenes Laertius, as well as modern scholarship by Tim O'Keefe, Emily Austin, and the *Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism*. My understanding of the distinction between kinetic and katastematic pleasure has been shaped by Peter Preuss's *Epicurean Ethics: Katastematic Hedonism*, though I remain open to revising that view in light of the Gosling & Taylor material cited by Cassius, especially their argument that the distinction may not have been central for Epicurus himself.

Outside of Epicureanism, I've been influenced by Humean constructivism in metaethics (particularly the work of Sharon Street), and I lean toward free will skepticism, as argued by Galen Strawson. I'm also intrigued by Strawson's panpsychist position on consciousness, which posits that some form of experience is a fundamental feature of matter. I recognize that these views may sit uneasily alongside Epicurean materialism, and I'm curious to explore how—or if—they can be integrated without violating core Epicurean principles.

What draws me most to Epicureanism is its emphasis on rational pleasure, its rejection of metaphysical fear, and its commitment to a naturalistic and psychologically grounded ethics. I look forward to learning from everyone here and contributing to the discussion.