

Where To Start?

Post by "Cassius" of January 8, 2018 at 11:37 PM

I am so glad you asked that! There is only ONE answer in my humble opinion, and it is head and shoulders the best introduction to Epicurus:

NORMAN DEWITT's "EPICURUS AND HIS PHILOSOPHY"

<http://newepicurean.com/other-resource...his-philosophy/>

It is out of print but it is not hard to find on Ebay, used book stores, or various other places on the internet.

I would advise anyone reading Epicurus to get this book first. The reasons are many, but they boil down to this: DeWitt makes an effort to present Epicurus in a sympathetic manner, attempting to reconstruct the philosophy as a coherent whole. He shows how Epicurus was reacting against Plato and other opponents of pleasure, and shows how Epicurus differs dramatically both from his Plato and Aristotle and also from the Stoics who came after him. Most every other modern book is an academic presentation that spends more time attacking Epicurus than presenting his position. If you read DeWitt, and then read the others, you'll have both sides of the story and be better able to make your own judgment. If you never read DeWitt, you'll never really hear the "Epicurean side" of the story.