

Problems in Frances Wright's "A Few Days in Athens"

Post by "Cassius" of October 22, 2020 at 3:55 PM

I will have lots more to say about this but immediately wanted to say "thank you!" Elayne, this is excellent commentary.

It's been years now since I first read AFDIA and yes I remember having several reservations with it, but your comments are more detailed than I ever wrote down then or since then.

I remember I definitely thought that she was embracing determinism, and that her view of the [Epicurean gods](#) was misstating what Epicurus said (which is worse than disagreeing, to put different words in his mouth), but these points you are raising are at least as important as those.

I remember that my primary reaction has always been in "relative" terms -- that Wright was contrasting Epicurus with the Stoics and showing the inferiority of Zeno's approach, and that to an extent she was at least defining pleasure most of the time in a somewhat normal way.

I was so relieved to find someone who even seemed to "approximately" get him right that I was happy to find her.

But I agree with you that these limitations you are pointing out are major issues with the book in absolute terms, and they need to be pointed out so that any good parts are taken in this context and the bad parts are warned about..

I will go through and have more detailed comments asap.