

Remember To Join Us For A Skype Call This Sunday 9/1 If You Can!

Post by “Cassius” of August 30, 2019 at 4:38 PM

As we in the USA start a long holiday weekend, please remember to join us if you can Sunday morning at 11 AM for a skype conference call to discuss Epicurean philosophy. Our topic will be chapter 12 of Norman DeWitt's "Epicurus and His Philosophy," but Julie has prepared a great outline so even if you have not read the book you'll easily be able to follow along. A link to the conference will be posted later this weekend but all you need is a working Skype connection on your desktop or phone. Don't worry about video - this will be audio only.

A SUMMARY OF CHAPTER XII: THE NEW HEDONISM FROM EPICURUS & HIS PHILOSOPHY BY NORMAN WENTWORTH DEWITT

Much of what is discussed here is stated by Epicurus in the middle section of his Letter to Menoeceus. I recommend having a copy of the letter nearby to refer to while reading this summary. The letter to Menoeceus, principle doctrines, and the Vatican sayings can all be found on NewEpicurean.com.

THE "SUMMUM BONUM" FALLACY

It is often misunderstood that Epicurus taught that pleasure was the greatest good. What Epicurus really taught was that life itself is the greatest good and that pleasure is the telos. Telos means end as in fulfillment or culmination rather than termination. DeWitt explains that this misunderstanding stems from limitations of the Latin language. Latin did not have a word that corresponds to telos and thus summum bonum was used to describe the role of pleasure. Summum bonum means the chief good.

Here's the full outline: [NewHedonism_v3.pdf](#)

Post by “Cassius” of August 31, 2019 at 6:54 PM

Please remember to join us tomorrow at 11 AM eastern if you can. The link for the Skype chat will be posted tomorrow well before the start time.

Post by “Joshua” of September 1, 2019 at 10:02 AM

This one will be hit or miss for me, as I am at a receiving dock right now; but I'll download Skype just in case. In any event I hope we're all having a pleasant time! (A rainy morning here

in east central Ohio for me).

-joshua

Post by “Cassius” of September 1, 2019 at 10:03 AM

Thank you Joshua!

Post by “Cassius” of September 1, 2019 at 10:49 AM

Here is the link for anyone who can join us starting about 10 minutes from now at 11 Eastern
<https://join.skype.com/NSVK30V2BKhb>

Post by “Cassius” of September 1, 2019 at 12:26 PM

We just had an **excellent** conference call to discuss Chapter 12 of Epicurus and His Philosophy, and thanks to all who participated. We'll be continuing the same discussion next week, same time, same place. Thanks especially to the two new people who joined us today, and we will look forward to next time starting with the subsection "The Natural Ceilings of Pleasure.

Joshua we are sorry you missed it, but thanks to Godfrey for joining us, and we hope you both can participate next week!

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Post by “Godfrey” of September 1, 2019 at 3:03 PM

I'm planning on it: it was a pleasant and insightful discussion!

Post by "Cassius" of September 1, 2019 at 8:08 PM

Excellent Godfrey, and thank you again for joining us today!

Post by "Joshua" of September 22, 2019 at 12:17 PM

Thank you all for the chat! I'm glad finally to have taken part. I have to apologize again for the technical issues. Looking forward to next time!

Post by "Cassius" of September 22, 2019 at 12:25 PM

You can learn a lot from a person's voice and so it was great to hear from you directly!

Post by "Hiram" of September 22, 2019 at 1:54 PM

Is there or will there be a summary or notes taken from these discussions for future reference, that can continue to be used or posted for the benefit of people in the future who may choose to read it, using a "study guide" prepared by Epicureans?

If there is, I'd like to have a page link to share.

Post by "Cassius" of September 22, 2019 at 4:22 PM

At this point the answer is no, Hiram, but within the subforum dedicated to the book it is divided into chapters and the "outlines" we have prepared so far are there. As far as notes highlighting the discussions that would be great but at this point we don't have anyone doing that.