

**"A Few Days In Athens" Zoom Book Club Meeting #1:
Who Was Frances Wright, Introduction, and Chapter
One (Jan 30 8:00 PM EST) (Sun, Jan 30th 2022,
8:00 pm-9:00 pm)**

Post by "Cassius" of January 24, 2022 at 7:37 PM

Cassius started a new event:



Event

"A Few Days In Athens" Zoom Book Club Meeting #1: Who Was Frances Wright, Introduction, and Chapter One (Jan 30 8:00 PM EST)

This will be the first session on "A Few Days In Athens.' We will talk about (1) Who was Frances Wright? (2) The Introduction, and (3) Chapter One. The plan will be to move on to Chapter Two next week.

The rough agenda for our one hour session is:

1 - Twenty Minute or so overview of Frances Wright, the Introduction, and Chapter One by led Cassius and any other volunteer regular forum participants who have read the whole book.

2 - Brief introduction of everyone on the call. (We will go around...

Sun, Jan 30th 2022, 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Cassius

January 24, 2022 at 7:37 PM

Quote

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The rough agenda for our one hour session is:

1 - Twenty Minute or so overview of Frances Wright, the Introduction, and Chapter One by led Cassius and any other volunteer regular forum participants who have read the whole book.

2 - Brief introduction of everyone on the call. (We will go around the zoom list and ask everyone to say their first names (real or otherwise) and tell us about their background and interest in Epicurus. For example: "My name is Joshua, I am from (country), and I have been interested in Epicurus ever since _____. I have read (describe how many books on Epicurus you have read) and I have / have not read the entire "A Few Days In Athens."

3 - After we do the introductions, we will then open the floor for open discussion of Chapter one from all participants. Depending on how many people we have we will probably use the "raise your hand" method of going around the table. with Cassius or other moderator calling on people to keep the conversation organized. We will monitor the text chat also and people can use that to indicate that they want to speak, and

what about.

We will see how his format works and make adjustments in future meetings.

Note: The use of video is strictly optional. We anticipate many of our friends will choose to use audio only.

A ZOOM LINK WILL BE ADDED HERE SHORTLY BEFORE THE MEETING.

Cassius Amicus is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: A Few Days In Athens Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 30, 2022 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81405787401?...2FCYTE2TnNDZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 0578 7401

Passcode: 203583

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 814 0578 7401

Passcode: 203583

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kdRzXZ4CDP>

Link to Book: <http://www.afewdaysinathens.com/>

<https://archive.org/.../fewdaysinathe.../page/n5/mode/2up...>

Link to Ongoing Discussion of Chapter One (the place to discuss Chapter One into the future). [AFDIA - Chapter One](#)

Links:

["A Few Days In Athens" Zoom Book Club Meeting #1](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/332030028928098>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EpicureanPhilosophy/posts/4715137858535137/>

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Post by "Cassius" of January 24, 2022 at 7:43 PM

Gosh this is the first time I have used the "Schedule Event" feature and I hope I have not created a monster. I have listed everyone here who has level 3 status, plus others who have indicated interest. i have no idea what kind of emails or notifications you are going to get - I hope it is not too much.

Also i think we are probably better off with an 8:00 PM eastern time to start, so my apologies to anyone for whom this start time won't work. Let's see what happens with this first one and perhaps we can adjust.

Post by "Cassius" of January 24, 2022 at 7:55 PM

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2359-a-few-days-in-athens-zoom-book-club-meeting-1-who-was-frances-wright-introductio/>

I should be able to handle a twenty-minute summary on Frances Wright and Chapter One for the opening of this Zoom meeting, but if any of our regulars here would like to volunteer to stand ready in case I fall short I would certainly appreciate it.

I have no clue how many people we will have, but I expect a significant number of totally new people, so it would probably be best if we have some regulars ready to help lead the discussion in case things go too far off beam.

No need to commit to anything now but I will appreciate the help from anyone who has either (1) already read the book, or (2) is just a good talker!

Post by “Charles” of January 25, 2022 at 9:53 PM

Just a footnote for the other book I mentioned for future use and reference: The Epicuriana by Paul Donovan <https://www.the-epicuriana-a-novel.com/blog-the-chapters/>

Post by “Cassius” of January 30, 2022 at 8:56 AM

Reminder - our first meeting of the A Few Days In Athens Book Review is tonight at 8:00 PM Eastern USA Time. Zoom link will be posted about a half hour prior to the meeting!

Post by “Joshua” of January 30, 2022 at 5:06 PM

[Chapter 1 outline.pdf](#)

I have put together a rough outline of the first chapter, if that be helpful. I will certainly be in attendance this evening!

Post by “Cassius” of January 30, 2022 at 5:28 PM

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2359-a-few-days-in-athens-zoom-book-club-meeting-1-who-was-frances-wright-introductio/>

Thank you thank you thank you! That will take the pressure off my stream of consciousness approach.

Post by "Cassius" of January 30, 2022 at 9:38 PM

Joshua's outline was so good we need a copy here. It's not well formatted like the PDF, but good enough:

Chapter 1 Outline

I. Begins In Media Res, in the middle of things

A. Theon's Soliloquy

i. Appeal to the gods

ii. "Corrupting the youth"

iii. "Forsaking the Portico"

B. Characteristics of the "Gargettian", per Timocrates

i. Blasphemer, Seducer, Deceiver

ii. Master of "cursed ceremonies of riot and impiety"

iii. "nocturnal horrors"

II. Meeting the Stranger

A. Theon leaves the noisy crowded city, for the restful peace of nature

i. Seats himself by the Cephissus

ii. Interrupted by the gentle sound of footsteps

iii. Extensive description of the (evident) sage

III. Their Conversation

A. On Zeno

i. "a school of real virtue"

- ii. "I had rather be the companion than the master"
- iii. Theon; "I have looked upon Zeno with admiration and despair"
- iv. "He who but admires virtue, yields her but half her due"
- v. Can we rival Zeno? Yes: with;
 - 1. Innocence
 - 2. Sensibility
 - 3. Enthusiasm
 - 4. Ambition
 - 5. Courage
 - 6. Will
- vi. All men cannot be poets and philosophers, but can be virtuous

Cephisus-A river god. Father
 of Eteocles, first mortal to
 worship the three Graces,
 attendants of Aphrodite (and
 sometimes Apollo)

B. On Epicurus

- i. "What a loss for man that you are not teacher in the garden"
- ii. "...I shall never be seduced by the advocate of vice"
- iii. "I (Epicurus) would have you attend all the schools, with a willing ear"
- iv. Even the garden itself

C. On Timocrates

- i. "To hear virtue denied? Vice advocated? Atheism professed? Nocturnal Orgies!?"
- ii. "I (Epicurus) should apprehend Timocrates to be a little mistaken"
- iii. And quite possibly a liar
 - 1. It is easy to get away with lies when you tell absurdities

iv. The first and last thing is to think for yourself

D. "I am Epicurus

Post by "Cassius" of February 4, 2022 at 11:26 AM

The question has been raised about whether it is a good idea to make this into a continuing podcast, or to flatly state that it is not being recorded, which might be conducive to more frank conversation. When we started this I got several questions from people who wanted to hear it even if they could not attend live, so I do think there is an audience for this.

On the other hand, recording and posting is going to cause some degree of reluctance on the part of some people to speak freely.

There's a significant tradeoff of benefits and I am not sure which is best so I would like opinions.

Check out how I have edited this first one as a prototype. I definitely think that (as here) we will not post any of the cameras that were live, and we can make the video just slides (as we did here).

What do you think? Let's try to decide before this Sunday night. We'll definitely tell everyone who signs on our intention, one way or the other.

Right now this is posted on my page but it is not announced anywhere but here. If anyone whose voice is recorded would like it removed just let me know and I can edit them out.

Take a look at the "disclaimer" that I put at the front of the video as well. I am thinking that people will come and go and won't be in every episode, so we need to be clear that this is more free-wheeling discussion and less an official statement of Epicurean viewpoints --- we have the Lucretius Today podcast to serve more that function.

Post by "Cassius" of February 5, 2022 at 7:21 AM

I see we're going to end up with two threads for each episode; (1) The thread associated with the calendar event, and (2) the thread associated with the chapter in the section on the book.

Until i figure out a way to deal with that, here's a crosslink where it's likely a majority of the

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2359-a-few-days-in-athens-zoom-book-club-meeting-1-who-was-frances-wright-introductio/>

discussion over time will take place: [AFDIA - Chapter One](#)