

Welcome Root304!

Post by “Cassius” of May 22, 2022 at 7:07 PM

Welcome @Root304 ! **Please Note:** In order to minimize spam registrations, all new registrants must respond in this thread to this welcome message within 72 hours of its posting, or their accounts will be deleted. All that is required is a "Hello!" but of course we hope you will introduce yourselves further and join one or more of our conversations.

This is the place for students of Epicurus to coordinate their studies and work together to promote the philosophy of Epicurus. Please remember that all posting here is subject to our [Community Standards / Rules of the Forum](#) our [Not Neo-Epicurean, But Epicurean](#) and our [Posting Policy statements](#) and [associated posts](#).

Please understand that the leaders of this forum are well aware that many fans of Epicurus may have sincerely-held views of what Epicurus taught that are incompatible with the purposes and standards of this forum. This forum is dedicated exclusively to the study and support of people who are committed to classical Epicurean views. As a result, this forum is not for people who seek to mix and match some Epicurean views with positions that are inherently inconsistent with the core teachings of Epicurus.

All of us who are here have arrived at our respect for Epicurus after long journeys through other philosophies, and we do not demand of others what we were not able to do ourselves. Epicurean philosophy is very different from other viewpoints, and it takes time to understand how deep those differences really are. That's why we have membership levels here at the forum which allow for new participants to discuss and develop their own learning, but it's also why we have standards that will lead in some cases to arguments being limited, and even participants being removed, when the purposes of the community require it. Epicurean philosophy is not inherently democratic, or committed to unlimited free speech, or devoted to any other form of organization other than the pursuit by our community of happy living through the principles of Epicurean philosophy.

One way you can be most assured of your time here being productive is to tell us a little about yourself and personal your background in reading Epicurean texts. It would also be helpful if you could tell us how you found this forum, and any particular areas of interest that you have which would help us make sure that your questions and thoughts are addressed.

In that regard we have found over the years that there are a number of key texts and references which most all serious students of Epicurus will want to read and evaluate for themselves. Those include the following.

1. ["Epicurus and His Philosophy"](#) by Norman DeWitt
2. [The Biography of Epicurus by Diogenes Laertius.](#) This includes the surviving letters of Epicurus, including those to [Herodotus](#), [Pythocles](#), and [Menoceus](#).
3. ["On The Nature of Things"](#) - by Lucretius (a poetic abridgement of Epicurus' "On Nature")
4. ["Epicurus on Pleasure"](#) - By Boris [Nikolsky](#)
5. The chapters on Epicurus in [Gosling and Taylor's "The Greeks On Pleasure."](#)
6. [Cicero's "On Ends" - Torquatus Section](#)
7. [Cicero's "On The Nature of the Gods" - Velleius Section](#)
8. The Inscription of Diogenes of Oinoanda - [Martin Ferguson Smith translation](#)
9. [A Few Days In Athens" - Frances Wright](#)
10. Lucian Core Texts on Epicurus: (1) [Alexander the Oracle-Monger](#), (2) [Hermotimus](#)
11. [Philodemus "On Methods of Inference"](#) (De Lacy version, including his appendix on relationship of Epicurean canon to Aristotle and other Greeks)
12. "The Greeks on Pleasure" -Gosling & Taylor Sections on Epicurus, especially the [section on katastematic and kinetic pleasure](#) which explains why ultimately this distinction was not of great significance to Epicurus.

It is by no means essential or required that you have read these texts before participating in the forum, but your understanding of Epicurus will be much enhanced the more of these you have read.

And time has also indicated to us that if you can find the time to read one book which will best explain [classical Epicurean philosophy](#), as opposed to most modern "eclectic" interpretations of Epicurus, that book is Norman DeWitt's ***Epicurus And His Philosophy***.

Welcome to the forum!

Not Neo-Epicurean, But Epicurean

1. Not "flourishing," "human potential," "self-actualization," or "meaningfulness," but happiness grounded in the feeling of pleasure.
2. Not "absence of pain" as a full statement of the goal of life, but "the Feelings are two, pleasure and pain" and "Pleasure is the beginning and the end of a happy life."
3. Not virtue for the sake of virtue, but virtue as instrumental for the attainment of pleasure.
4. Not "the greatest good for the greatest number," but "Every desire must be confronted with this question: What will happen to me if the object of my desire is accomplished and what if it is not?"
5. Not "humanism," "transhumanism," "individualism," "collectivism," "egoism," "altruism," "social progress," "Marxism," "democracy," "tyranny," or any "one size fits all" political ideal of any kind, but social structure based on friendship which "is formed and maintained by means of a community of life among those who have reached the fullness of pleasure."
6. Not "hard determinism," but "some things happen from necessity, some from chance, and others through our own choice."
7. Not "supernaturalism," but "materialism."
8. Not "supernatural gods," or "life after death," but confidence in a fully material universe and "for those men for whom wisdom is possible, and who do seek it, such men may truly live as gods."
9. Not only "short term hedonism," but "it is to continuous pleasures that I invite you."
10. Not "rationalism," but "all reason is dependent upon sensations."
11. Not fearful of death nor careless of losing life, but valuing life for the opportunity of pleasure it brings.

Our Posting Policy At EpicureanFriends.com:

"No Partisan Politics," "No Supernatural Religion," and "No Absolute Virtue"

This forum is dedicated to promoting the philosophy of Epicurus, and not to any partisan political positions whether "left," "right," or "center." The task of rediscovering Epicurean philosophy requires that such discussions be held elsewhere. Posts violating this rule are subject to removal.



Epicurean philosophy firmly rejects the viewpoint that there are any supernatural forces or absolute virtues or Platonic ideals of any kind. Argument which is based on supernatural claims, or "absolute" virtues or ideals of any kind, are in violation of this rule and subject to removal.

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Post by “Cassius” of May 22, 2022 at 7:08 PM

Good to have you Root304!

Post by “Scott” of May 23, 2022 at 10:17 AM

Welcome @Root304 !

Post by “Marco” of May 24, 2022 at 1:20 AM



Welcome @Root304 !

Post by “Root304” of May 24, 2022 at 12:12 PM

Thanks for the greetings! I was the new guy at last weeks Wednesday zoom.

Post by “Cassius” of May 24, 2022 at 12:21 PM

And we hope to see you this Wednesday too.

Post by “Martin” of May 24, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Welcome Root304!

Post by “Root304” of May 25, 2022 at 8:35 PM

I had a really draining day at work followed up by a really intense zoom meeting afterwards, so I'm thinking I need some time to decompress. I'll try posting an item or two that has been on my mind on the forum later this evening before bed. Cheers!

Post by “Cassius” of May 25, 2022 at 9:48 PM

Sorry to have missed you tonightRoot304 but hope you can join us next week.

Post by “Root304” of May 27, 2022 at 7:10 PM

After reading some of the other interactions on the forum, I think I would categorize myself more as an eclectic with my current philosophizing and will take the prevailing wisdom to read DeWitt and other Epicurean works before engaging too much on this forum with the ideas I've been mulling over.

However, I want to say that I am excited to be here and I've been experiencing a lot of zeal and exuberance since really engaging with Epicurean content from this group as well as Hiram's

work over the past 10 months or so. Putting pleasurable sensation at the forefront of my life has really opened me up to all the nuances and fullness of being human, has made me a better father and husband, and has been incredibly therapeutic for some deeply disturbed states of mind I've experienced in the recent past. Cheers!

Post by “Cassius” of May 27, 2022 at 7:22 PM

I know that looking over the forum can be "intimidating" to someone new to reading Epicurus, but I do hope you'll err on the side of speaking up too quickly and asking questions too fast, rather than feeling like your questions are too basic for the forum. It's very helpful to those of us who have been here longer to see how others are thinking, so as you come across issues that are new to you and you have questions, don't hesitate to ask!

Post by “Root304” of May 27, 2022 at 8:08 PM

Thanks for the encouragement, Cassius!

Post by “Don” of May 27, 2022 at 9:53 PM

@Root304 , I initially joined the forum seriously intending to simply read and learn. I found myself intrigued and curious. Now, I can't shut up. 😊 I hope you'll find some encouragement in that to ask questions and be active on the forum. Welcome.