

# **Episode 178 - "Epicurus And His Philosophy" Part 30 - Chapter 13 - The True Piety 01**

**Post by "Cassius" of June 9, 2023 at 9:48 PM**

Welcome to Episode 178 of Lucretius Today. This is a podcast dedicated to the poet Lucretius, who wrote "On The Nature of Things," the only complete presentation of Epicurean philosophy left to us from the ancient world. Each week we walk you through the Epicurean texts, and we discuss how Epicurean philosophy can apply to you today. If you find the Epicurean worldview attractive, we invite you to join us in the study of Epicurus at EpicureanFriends.com, where you will find a discussion thread for each of our podcast episodes and many other topics. We are now in the process of a series of podcasts intended to provide a general overview of Epicurean philosophy based on the organizational structure employed by Norman DeWitt in his book "Epicurus and His Philosophy." This week we begin our discussion of Chapter 13, entitled "The True Piety."

## **Chapter XIII - The True Piety**

- Knowledge of the Gods
- The Proper Attitude Or Diathesis
- Existence of the Gods
- The Form of the Gods
- Gradation In Godhead
- Incorruptibility And Virtue
- Isonomy And the Gods
- The Life of the Gods
- Communion And Fellowship
- Prophecy And Prayer

<https://www.spreaker.com/episode/54457296>

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**Post by "Joshua" of June 9, 2023 at 10:51 PM**

I've been listening to an audiobook by Matthew Stewart called "Nature's God; The Heretical Origins of the American Republic."

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3115-episode-178-epicurus-and-his-philosophy-part-30-chapter-13-the-true-piety-01/>

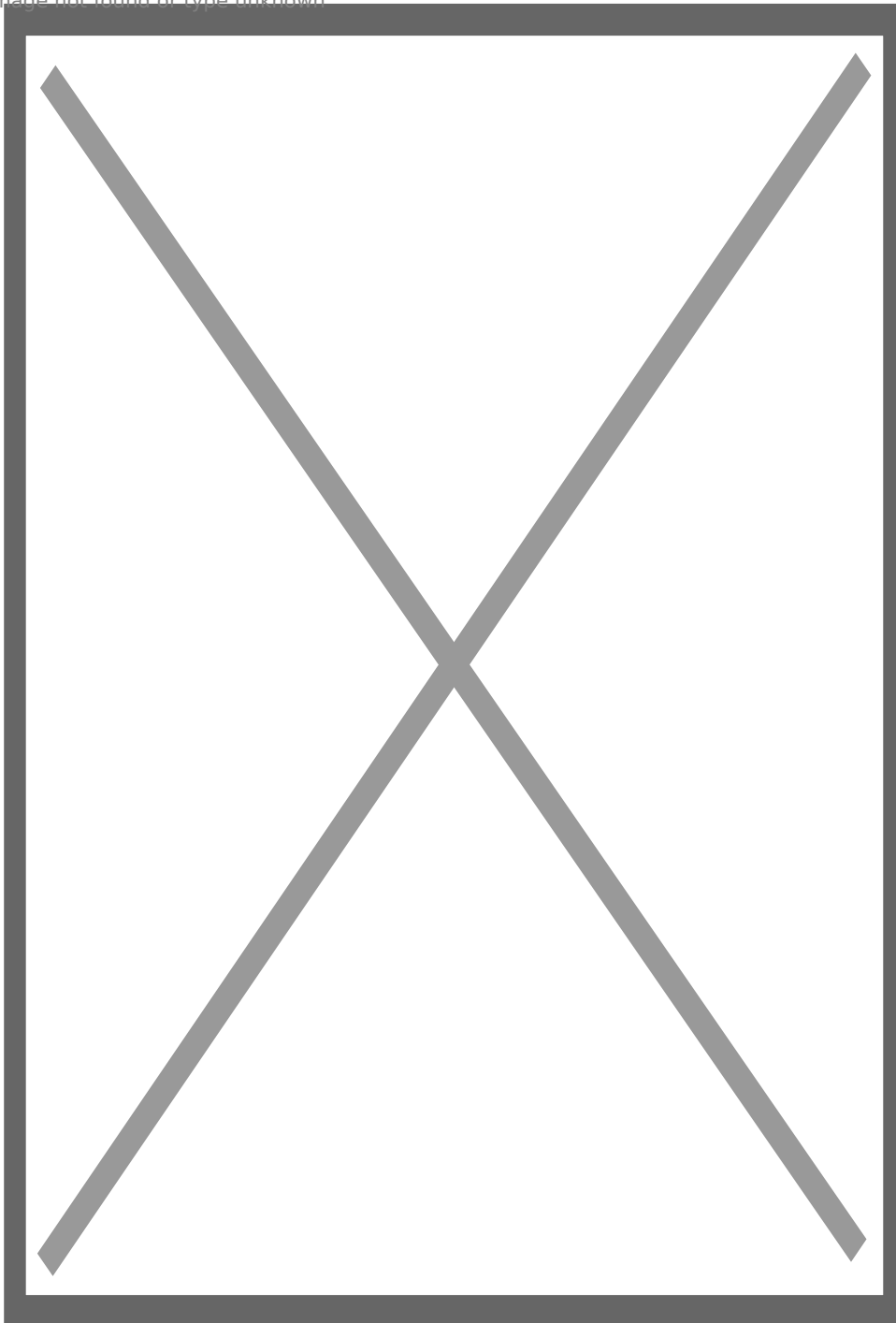
I am still in the early chapters, but his project is to trace the Deism of Ethan Allen, Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin, etc--and the list is quote long--back through Charles Blount, John Locke, Baruch Spinoza, and finally through Lucretius and back to Epicurus. I cannot really review it at this time (although I might recommend a paper copy as easier to read carefully), but I am finding it very interesting.

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**Post by “Don” of June 9, 2023 at 11:02 PM**

FYI

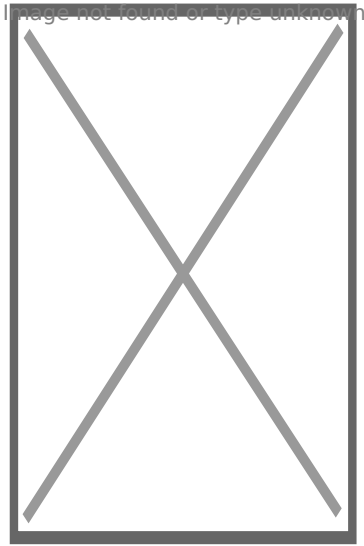
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[Nature's God - Matthew Stewart](#)

Not only the erudite Thomas Jefferson, the wily and elusive Ben Franklin, and the underappreciated Thomas Paine, but also Ethan Allen, the hero of the Green...  
mwstewart.com

One can't read it in an hour, but if anyone is interested in searching it for Epicurus or Lucretius...



[Nature's God : the heretical origins of the American republic : Stewart, Matthew, 1963- : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

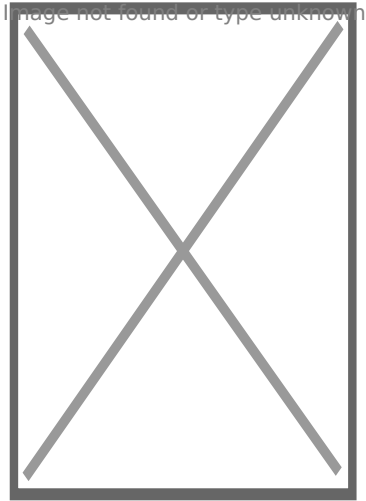
vii, 566 pages ; 25 cm

archive.org

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### **Post by “Don” of June 11, 2023 at 11:33 AM**

I mentioned The Oxyrhynchus Papyrus 215 in this episode (Internet Archive link opens to papyrus #215):



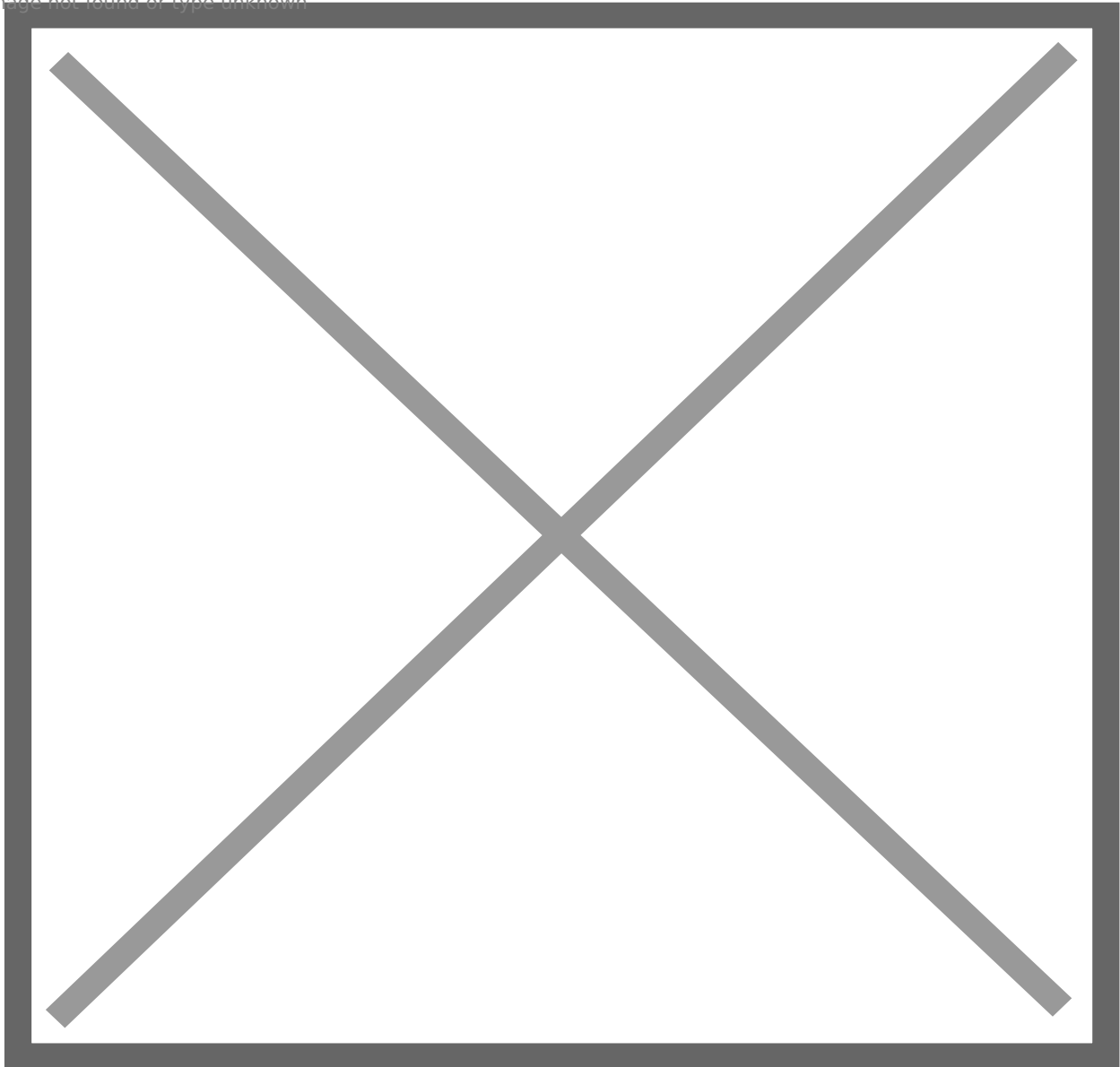
[The Oxyrhynchus papyri : Grenfell, Bernard P. \(Bernard Pyne\), 1869-1926 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

26 35 43

archive.org

For a little background on the papyri:

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[Oxyrhynchus Papyri - Wikipedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org

and the WP article to 215 itself:

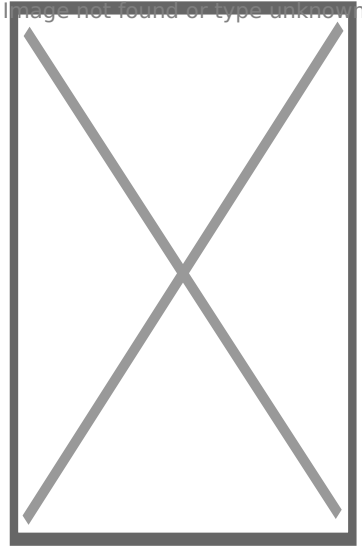
[Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 215 - Wikipedia](#)

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**Post by “Don” of June 11, 2023 at 2:00 PM**

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3115-episode-178-epicurus-and-his-philosophy-part-30-chapter-13-the-true-piety-01/>

There's also The Hellenistic Philosophers by Long and Sedley to borrow from Internet Archive for free (one hour at a time):



[The Hellenistic philosophers : Long, A. A : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

2 volumes : 24 cm  
archive.org

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### Post by “Cassius” of June 15, 2023 at 6:49 AM

Editing of this week's podcast will hopefully be finished soon, but I thought this would be a good place to link some recent discussion we've had about religion and the gods to show how this topic remains very relevant to many people, including many of us here at EpicureanFriends:

Post

[\*\*RE: Does the philosophy change you?\*\*](#)

My problem is I really can't escape Catholic guilt. I wish I could.



Eoghan Gardiner

June 14, 2023 at 11:58 AM

## Post by “Cassius” of June 16, 2023 at 7:10 AM

Episode 178 of the podcast is now available!

<https://www.spreaker.com/episode/54457296>

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## Post by “Godfrey” of June 17, 2023 at 7:09 PM

Another enjoyable podcast!

Here's a quotation that makes a case against Lucretius having written a seventh book:

*Study of endings and closure in classical poetry (in particular of the abrupt and unsettling end of the Aeneid, with its image of Aeneas killing Turnus after Turnus's surrender, which also was once widely attributed to the poem's unfinished state) has made clearer that the abrupt ending of the De rerum natura is far less an anomaly than earlier readers suggested. The opening reference to Athens and suffering mortals is likely a structuring device linking the beginning and end of the book. At any rate, the sixth book clearly constitutes the end of the poem in Lucretius's overall plan, not only because he has created the neat structure of three pairs of books but also because he announces this book as the final one near the end of the proem, with a punning invocation of the Muse Calliope and a reminiscence of the prayer to Venus in book 1: "Precede me and mark out my course, as I run my stint to the white line of my final goal, callida Musa Calliope (clever Muse Calliope), repose of men and delight of gods, that with you as leader I may win the crown with signal glory" (6.92-95). From <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/lucretius>*

Also, in light of the discussion, [PD01](#) sounds a bit like a predecessor to "what would Jesus do?" in addition to its other interpretations. I hadn't thought of it in that way before.

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## Post by “Joshua” of June 17, 2023 at 7:33 PM

Excellent point, [Godfrey](#) .

Stephen Greenblatt also argues against a seventh book, on the grounds that the end of Book VI sets up a test for the reader to see how well they've grasped the main points of the philosophy.

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George Santayana suggested that the poem was unfinished because he anticipates that Lucretius would have ended the poem with Mars to complete the symmetry of beginning with Venus.

[Here](#) is a thread on the plague at the end of the book, with a probably meaningless anagram I discovered: Mortifer aestus: "A deadly fever" -> Fetus ore Martis; "Offspring from the mouth of Mars."