

Suggested Books for the Next Step After Introductory Texts

Post by “Pacatus” of November 17, 2023 at 3:21 PM

There’s pretty widespread agreement here about Emily Austin’s book as a fine introductory text for modern readers, and respect for Catherine Wilson’s efforts despite cogent criticism. And Hiram Crespo’s book, though perhaps more so-called “neo-Epicurean” (or “Epicurean/Humanist”?) I think is also a good modern introduction.

But where to go next among modern writers – a next step into a more intermediate-level book? DeWitt, I guess. But I want to suggest two for newer Epicureans who want to take that next step (in no real order):

Dimitriadis, Haris. EPICURUS and THE PLEASANT LIFE: A Philosophy of Nature Kindle Edition – November 30, 2022 - Revised and Expanded 2nd Edition.

And Cassius Amicus, ELEMENTAL EPICUREANISM: The Core Texts of Epicureanism, 2013.

Both are available on Kindle, and Cassius’ book, especially, can be a continuing resource.

Post by “Cassius” of November 17, 2023 at 3:44 PM

Ha and now I get to disagree with Pacatus for sure 😊

Yes I agree that Haris' book is good and I recommend it. Haris and I have been on friendly terms for years but I regret not nearly as closely as we should have. I think Haris' viewpoint is largely consistent with what people will read here on this forum from the majority.

As to my older books I really need to pull them from circulation they are so old and in need of updating. At the time I was working with them I was in a pure "compilation" mode and I was mainly experimenting with being sure that the texts i thought were important were easily available in free format. That's now no longer an issue and I really should revise them, but for now I need to prioritize my time and the podcast and our discussions here seem more important in superceding those old ebooks.

Thanks for the kind words and I do think we need to expand the reading list. But at least now we can say to those who read Emily Wilson and DeWitt - "Read the forum for further ideas."

Post by “Pacatus” of November 17, 2023 at 3:58 PM

Far be it from me to ever disagree with [Cassius](#)! 😊

I think *Elemental Epicureanism* is still sufficiently current as a next-step, and continuing, resource – and for reading off-line.

As for updating, I always thought that your *Ante Oculos* is worth updating for sure – and maybe moving it from just an e-book (which, for technical reasons, I have more difficulty reading these days) to a Kindle format. (Not trying to promote Kindle here – just that it is my most easily readable format these days.) 😊