

# Welcome Frank1syl!

**Post by "Cassius" of December 5, 2023 at 11:52 AM**

Welcome [frank1syl](#) !

There is one last step to complete your registration:

All new registrants must post a response to this message here in this welcome thread (we do this in order to minimize spam registrations).

You must post your response within 72 hours, or your account will be subject to deletion.

Please say "Hello" by introducing yourself, tell us what prompted your interest in Epicureanism and which particular aspects of Epicureanism most interest you, and/or post a question.

This forum 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.

["Epicurus and His Philosophy"](#) by Norman DeWitt

[The Biography of Epicurus by Diogenes Laertius](#). This includes the surviving letters of Epicurus, including those to [Herodotus](#), [Pythocles](#), and [Menoceus](#).

["On The Nature of Things"](#) - by Lucretius (a poetic abridgement of Epicurus' "On Nature"

["Epicurus on Pleasure"](#) - By Boris [Nikolsky](#)

The chapters on Epicurus in [Gosling and Taylor's "The Greeks On Pleasure."](#)

[Cicero's "On Ends" - Torquatus Section](#)

[Cicero's "On The Nature of the Gods" - Velleius Section](#)

The Inscription of Diogenes of Oinoanda - [Martin Ferguson Smith translation](#)

[A Few Days In Athens" - Frances Wright](#)

Lucian Core Texts on Epicurus: (1) [Alexander the Oracle-Monger](#), (2) [Hermotimus](#)

[Philodemus "On Methods of Inference"](#) (De Lacy version, including his appendix on relationship of Epicurean canon to Aristotle and other Greeks)

"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. Feel free to join in on one or more of our conversation threads under various topics found throughout the forum, where you can to ask questions or to add in any of your insights as you study the Epicurean philosophy.

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.

(If you have any questions regarding the usage of the forum or finding info, please post any questions in this thread).

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.

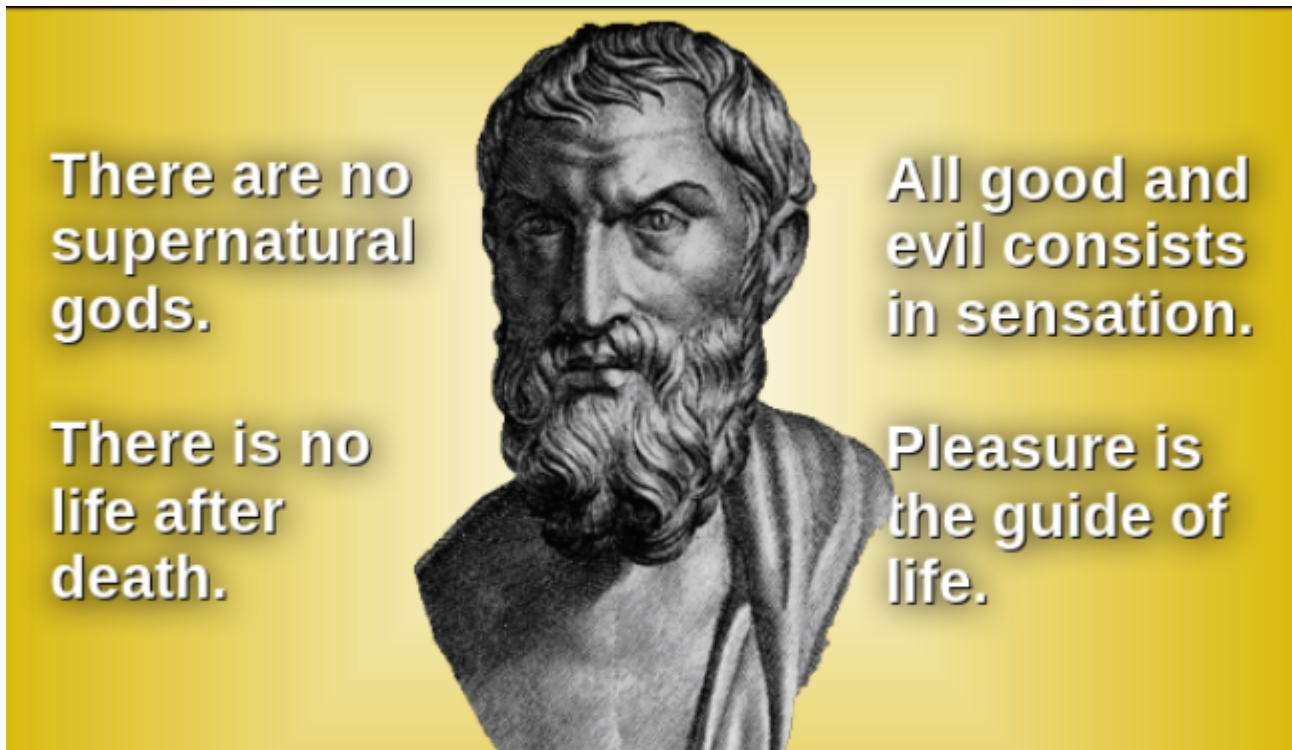
## Our Posting Policy At EpicureanFriends.com:

**"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 “frank1syl” of December 8, 2023 at 5:17 AM**

Hello Cassius,

My name is Frank and I live in Los Angeles. I have been interested in philosophy for some time. Most recently I was studying Stoicism. I was reading the letters of Seneca and noticed that he often quoted Epicureans, even though he was a Stoic, and that led me to explore Epicureanism. I have listened to all of the Lucretius Today podcasts on De Witt's book, "Epicurus and His Philosophy". All of Epicureanism interests me, though I admit to having the least interest in Epicurus's beliefs about the gods.

Frank

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**Post by “Martin” of December 8, 2023 at 6:01 AM**

Welcome Frank!

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### **Post by “Cassius” of December 8, 2023 at 6:01 AM**

#### [Quote from frank1syl](#)

I have listened to all of the Lucretius Today podcasts on De Witt's book, "Epicurus and His Philosophy".

Wow that's great! It's always good to hear that someone is listening because it's hard to tell from the "statistics" whether the listens/downloads we see are real people or just computers talking to themselves 😊

It's good to have you and we look forward to discussing any topic (even the gods as needed!) with you.

Thanks for saying hello and let us know if you need anything with which we can help.

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### **Post by “Don” of December 8, 2023 at 6:58 AM**

Welcome aboard, [frank1syl](#) !

Many of us found Epicurus via the Stoics, so you're in good company.

#### [Quote from frank1syl](#)

All of Epicureanism interests me, though I admit to having the least interest in Epicurus's beliefs about the god

From my perspective, the primary things Epicurus wants to get across about "the gods" are that:

1. They didn't create the universe.
2. They don't control - or even have any interest in - our lives.

If that's as far as anyone goes, I think they've got solid ground to stand on.

We've had loooooong threads about the nature of the gods, whether they're concepts or beings (from Epicurus's perspective), and so on. Epicurus lays vital importance on having a "proper" attitude towards "a god" but as long as one doesn't "fear" them, you're probably good to go for the most part.

You're also not the only one here that finds that topic of less interest, so you're certainly not alone in that sentiment. 😊

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### **Post by “Cassius” of December 8, 2023 at 11:29 AM**

#### [Quote from Don](#)

You're also not the only one here that finds that topic of less interest, so you're certainly not alone in that sentiment.

Thanks for that reply Don as it pointed out to me that I had misread the post about the gods (I corrected mine in response!) 😊

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### **Post by “Pacatus” of December 8, 2023 at 1:15 PM**

Welcome, Frank!