

# Welcome Unpaid\_Landlord!

**Post by "Cassius" of July 3, 2024 at 10:55 AM**

Welcome [UnPaid\\_Landlord](#) !

Please check out our [Getting Started](#) page, but in the meantime 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.

**Nothing can be created  
from nothing.**

**Nature has no gods over  
her.**

**Do not assign to the  
gods anything that is  
inconsistent with  
incorruption and  
blessedness.**

**Death is nothing to us.**

**There is no necessity to  
live under the control of  
necessity.**



**He who says "Nothing  
can be known" knows  
nothing.**

**All sensations are "true."**

**Virtue is not absolute or  
an end in itself - all good  
and evil consists in  
sensation.**

**Pleasure is the guide of  
life.**

**By "Pleasure" we mean  
all experience that is not  
painful.**

**Life is desirable, but unlimited time contains no greater  
pleasure than limited time.**

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**Post by "Cassius" of July 3, 2024 at 10:57 AM**

[UnPaid\\_Landlord](#) thanks for posting your outline here: [Unpaid\\_Landlord's personal outline](#)

In addition, please circle back and respond to this thread when you get a chance.

Welcome to the forum!

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## Post by “UnPaid\_Landlord” of July 4, 2024 at 4:58 PM

I am a student of BS Data Science ,

Former stoic,

have explored many philosophies starting from advaita vedanta /Non-dualism (Hinduism), then Buddhism and zen Buddhism, then taoism (china) then to western philosophy, from stocism to now finally Epicureanism and Absurdism.

It has been quite a fascinating journey but I feel like settling down with Epicureanism and Absurdism for now at least

Skeptism is on the list to explore for the future

My current philosophical inclinations :-

Epicureanism and Absurdism

My current religious inclinations:-

Atheism

My hobbies :-

reading and discussing philosophy, science, psychology with friends

Why am I here ? Why Epicureanism?

Well, Stoicism didn't work out all that much, when you take out the metaphysics and the virtues out of Stoicism, all that remains is bunch of useful psychological tools not a life philosophy, at least I think so,

Epicureanism is the closest philosophy to science, practical, relatively simple and easy to understand (when you compare to eastern philosophy) and just makes a hell lot of sense, having your basics needs met, chilling out and philosophising with like minded friends, seems like a no brainer to me, of course, a big Yes !

Things I don't quite like about or agree with in Epicureanism ?

Epicurean stance on free will and the lack of more ethical stuff like Stoicism (I know they lost lots of text that's why) but I wish we had more

I came here after reading a brilliant book by Emily Austin, I would love to know your thoughts on that, have you read that book ? What do you think about it ? Does it faithfully represent the authentic Epicurean view ?

That's all for now, everything I have written until now is subject to change, but I do plan to follow Epicureanism for a long while and see for myself if it works

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### **Post by “Don” of July 4, 2024 at 5:18 PM**

Welcome.

We are big fans of Dr. Austin's book. I personally think it is the most-accessible, user-friendly introduction to Epicurus's philosophy currently available.

We also have two episodes of the podcast where we interviewed her, 156 & 157

[The Lucretius Today Podcast Listing, Page 2](#)

[Quote from UnPaid\\_Landlord](#)

Does it faithfully represent the authentic Epicurean view ?

Yes, and she does a masterful job of dispelling from some of the misconceptions like Epicurus's supposedly being an ascetic. Her adherence to the actual texts is well done without being pedantic.

4.99 stars out of 5 (Wouldn't want to not leave any room for more Physics for the 2nd edition 😊 )

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### **Post by “Little Rocker” of July 4, 2024 at 7:49 PM**

Welcome, Unpaid\_Landlord! You'll find you're in very good company. I'll be curious at some point to find out what you take Absurdism to be and why it intrigues you because I've been thinking about it some in the Epicurean context. As I understand it, some people (generally critics) take Absurdism to result directly from an Epicurean-style purposeless universe. The line

of reasoning seems to be that once we're not here *for a reason* and *with a purpose*, we have to manufacture all the meaning out of thin air. And all the effort to manufacture meaning, at least when you take a moment to reflect on it, can feel like an absurd sort of charade, an elaborate game of pretend called 'Meaning.' Is that in the ballpark of your conception? Because I suspect Epicurus is truly concerned to find a response to that particular absurdist worry.

Again, welcome!

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## Post by “TauPhi” of July 4, 2024 at 9:03 PM

Welcome! [UnPaid\\_Landlord](#)

### [Quote from Little Rocker](#)

I'll be curious at some point to find out what you take Absurdism to be and why it intrigues you because I've been thinking about it some in the Epicurean context.

Ha! You're not the only one. Now there are at least three of us here thinking about Absurdism. I don't know exactly what's the link, but I always found Absurdism interesting. Maybe Epicureanism and Absurdism are like moths and fire or peanut butter and jelly or something... probably not.

Anyway, if someone wants 10 mins introduction to Absurdism in humorous yet surprisingly insightful way, follow the link. (warning: Parental Advisory Explicit Content)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jv79l1b-eol>

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## Post by “Kalosyni” of July 5, 2024 at 7:58 AM

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\*\*Posts addressing Absurdism have been copied/moved.

\*\*Please post all responses to continued discussion on Absurdism over in this new thread:

Post

## [The Absurdity of Absurdism \(?\)](#)

Welcome! @UnPaid\_Landlord

[...]

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Anyway, if someone wants 10 mins introduction to Absurdism in humorous yet surprisingly insightful way, follow the link. (warning: Parental Advisory Explicit Content)

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TauPhi

July 4, 2024 at 9:03 PM

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### **Post by “Kalosyni” of July 5, 2024 at 8:30 AM**

[UnPaid Landlord](#) welcome to the forum!

Just a heads up, that we do have a monthly meet-and-greet via Zoom which happens every first Monday of each month. This meeting is open to Introductory Members and provides an opportunity to meet others who are studying the philosophy of Epicurus. We also have a special Epicurean topic of discussion every month, which provides an opportunity to engage in live Zoom-time philosophizing!

Here is the link to find out more (next meeting will happen on August 5th):

Post

**[First Monday Epicurean Philosophy Hour \(Overview\) - 2024](#)**

General Overview:

Join us on the first Monday of every month for our forum-wide meet-and-greet and Epicurean philosophy discussion, for registered members of EpicureanFriends.com. Each month we

present a special discussion topic, and these will be announced in the dedicated thread for each specific meeting.

For new members who have not attended any previous Zoom meetings: please be sure that you have posted in your personal Welcome Thread, with an introduction of yourself and any background...



Kalosyni

December 26, 2023 at 2:48 PM

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### **Post by “Martin” of July 5, 2024 at 2:31 PM**

Welcome UnPaid\_Landlord!