

Updating Of EpicurusToday.com

Post by “Cassius” of January 9, 2026 at 3:57 PM

As many of you know I have been working to consolidate many of the materials referenced here at EpicureanFriends.com which are currently scattered over a number of URLs.

I have revamped the existing EpicurusToday.com website to serve as a clearinghouse for those. EpicurusToday is a flat-file static website which is much easier to backup and restore in the event of hosting issues. Curating these materials there should serve as a good backup (and not at all a replacement) for EpicureanFriends.com.

Many broken links and half-written pages remain, but the new structure should already be useful in its current state. Please note that over time EpicurusToday.com will become the main URL for host for the side-by-side editions of Diogenes Laertius, Lucretius, Torquatus, and Velleius. Earlier "handbook" URLs will ultimately be retired, but they will remain online for the foreseeable future:

- [Side By Side Lucretius](#)
- [Side By Side Diogenes Laertius X](#)
- [Side By Side Torquatus](#)
- [Side By Side Velleius](#)

Of equal importance is the new "Topical Outline of Quotations." There is much more work to do on that, but it's already useful:

- [Topical Concept Outline](#)

Please comment in this thread with any bug reports of broken links or other issues. I do not plan to implement a comment system at EpicurusToday but I will link heavily to EpicureanFriends where we can collaborate on site improvements.

Post by “Joshua” of January 9, 2026 at 7:38 PM

These are very useful! It did occur to me just now, though, that *part* is generally a higher order of classification than *section--book* -> *part* -> *chapter* -> *section* -> *subsection*--but I don't know if it's really worth fixing. As always [Cassius](#) thank you for the work you put into this stuff!

Post by “Cassius” of January 9, 2026 at 9:06 PM

Thanks Joshua. I have more work to do on that so I will incorporate that as I revise the outline. It's difficult getting it working right on all screen sizes so if someone runs into a problem please let me know and Claude and I will adjust it!

Post by “Bryan” of January 9, 2026 at 11:43 PM

Wow, that really looks GREAT! *On a side note, I love young Epicurus in a spacesuit -- and it really is a fully appropriate image. THANK YOU!!!*

Post by “Cassius” of January 10, 2026 at 7:39 AM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

On a side note, I love young Epicurus in a spacesuit -- and it really is a fully appropriate image. THANK YOU!!!

It's certainly not the only way - but it is one way - to emphasize that Epicurean philosophy applies to everyone, that each of us gets old and eventually dies, and that we want the pleasure while we are alive of thinking that we are helping those who will come thereafter.

We write wills and do many other things to make sure that happens:

Fr. 3

Quote

Having already reached the sunset of my life (being almost on the verge of departure from the world on account of old age), I wanted, before being overtaken by death, to compose a [fine] anthem [to celebrate the] fullness [of pleasure] and so to help now those who are well-constituted. Now, if only one person or two or three or four or five or six or any larger number you choose, sir, provided that it is not very large, were in a bad predicament, I should address them individually and do all in my power to give them the best advice. But, as I have said before, the majority of people suffer from a

common disease, as in a plague, with their false notions about things, and their number is increasing (for in mutual emulation they catch the disease from one another, like sheep) moreover, [it is] right to help [also] generations to come (for they too belong to us, though they are still unborn) and, besides, love of humanity prompts us to aid also the foreigners who come here. Now, since the remedies of the inscription reach a larger number of people, I wished to use this stoa to advertise publicly the [medicines] that bring salvation. These medicines we have put [fully] to the test; for we have dispelled the fears [that grip] us without justification, and, as for pains, those that are groundless we have completely excised, while those that are natural we have reduced to an absolute minimum, making their magnitude minute.

Post by “Kalosyni” of January 10, 2026 at 8:33 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

[Quote from Bryan](#)

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Fr. 3 ...

I am of the few who would say that Epicurus would not engage in spaceflight.

Just for fun I asked Google AI: In 2026, what are the odds that an astronaut will die?

Google response:

There's no precise "odds" for an astronaut death in 2026, but risks are managed with strict safety standards (like NASA's 1 in 270 crew loss target) against known dangers like radiation, while new threats like space debris increase overall risk, though specific mission fatality is unpredictable. While overall spaceflight is safer now, risks remain significant, with factors like

space junk and radiation increasing long-term health concerns and potential mission dangers as exploration expands.

Key Factors Influencing Risk

- **Space Debris:** A growing concern, with studies predicting increased chances of debris falling through busy airspace, posing indirect risks, notes [K8 News](#).
- **Space Radiation:** A major long-term health hazard, increasing risks for cancer and other issues, especially for deep space missions, according to [NASA Technical Reports Server \(NTRS\)](#) and [NIH](#).
- **Health Impacts:** Zero gravity weakens bones and muscles, potentially leading to kidney stones, notes [PIX11](#).

Safety Measures & Targets

- **NASA's Commercial Crew Program:** Aims for a 1 in 270 loss-of-crew figure, a standard met by SpaceX and Boeing, says [SpaceNews](#) and [Business Insider](#).
- **NASA's General Standard:** Limits astronaut exposure to a 3% risk of death from radiation, according to NASA Technical Reports Server (NTRS).

Overall Perspective

- Spaceflight has become safer over time, but remains inherently risky, with past missions having higher statistical risks, reports [NBC News](#).
- While specific odds for 2026 aren't calculable, increased space activity and planned deep space missions mean constant risk assessment, with potential for unforeseen incidents, according to [Space](#).

** 1 in 270 - is per mission

Post by “Cassius” of January 10, 2026 at 9:57 AM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Just for fun I asked Google AI: In 2026, what are the odds that an astronaut will die?

The odds an astronaut will die are 100% - just like anyone else.

We all die, but some of us want the maximum pleasure we can get out of life before we do!

And for some of us, the life of an astronaut would lead to maximizing pleasure.

The texts are very clear - the Epicurean goal of life is "pleasure," not "tranquility" or "the avoidance of all pain at any cost."

That latter is Hieronymus, not Epicurus.

<p>XXX. Now these in my opinion are the views about "limits" still maintained and supported. First four simple ones: that nothing is good unless it is morally right, as the Stoics say; no good except pleasure, as Epicurus; no good except absence of pain, as Hieronymus;¹ no good except enjoyment</p>	<p>XXX. Sunt autem haec de finibus, ut opinor, tentae defensaeque sententiae. Primum simplices uattuor: nihil bonum nisi honestum, ut Stoici; nihil bonum nisi voluntatem. ut Epicurus: nihil bonum nisi vacuitatem doloris,¹ ut Hieronymus;</p>
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Post by "Joshua" of January 10, 2026 at 10:32 AM

And to be fair, the failure rate for sea journeys in ancient Greece was also abysmal. Protagoras, Zeno of Citium, and Aristippus were all shipwrecked, and a young Julius Caesar was captured by pirates. I'm sure there are many more such stories!

Post by "TauPhi" of January 11, 2026 at 7:02 PM

Aristippus' anecdotes about sea voyages he took. Both come from Gnomologium Vaticanum (link below).

Aristippus the Cyrenian philosopher was shipwrecked sailing into Athens, and having been taken in by the Athenians and asked what he intended to tell his friends back home after returning to Cyrene, said: "to procure the sorts of travel provisions, which will float together with a shipwreck."

[Aristippus] had taken a lot of money from Dionysius when sailing back and because of this the sailors were plotting against him, so he moved from the middle of the boat to one side and ordered them to empty the money out onto the benches as though they could immediately count the money, but instead he turned around and threw it into the deep; and with the sailors being furious at this, he said: "Better to lose the money because of me than to lose me because of the money."

Source:

[English translations from the Gnomologium Vaticanum](#)

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