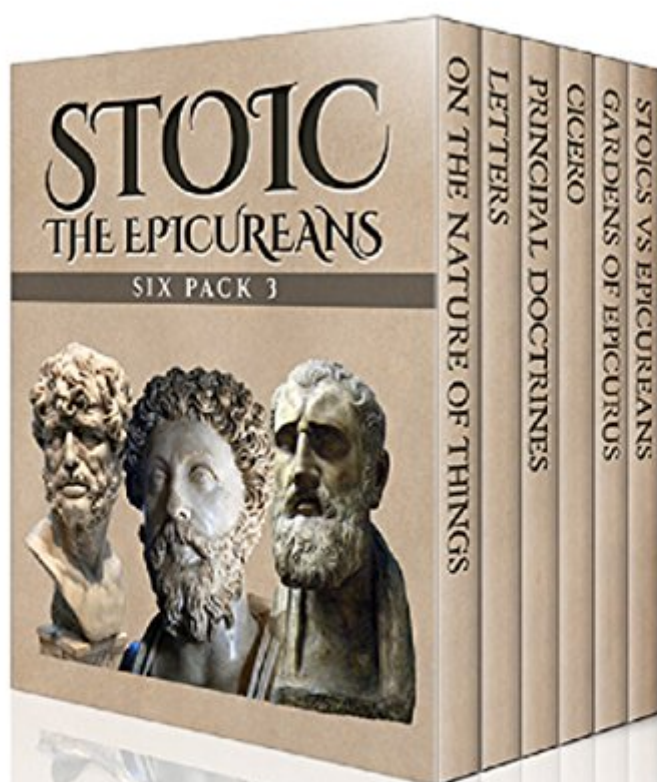


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Stoic Six Pack 3 – The Epicureans: On The Nature Of Things, Letters And Principal Doctrines Of Epicurus, De Finibus Bonorum Et Malorum, The Garden Of Epicurus And Stoics Vs Epicureans (Illustrated)





Synopsis

It is folly for a man to pray to the gods for that which he has the power to obtain by himself. - Epicurus. Founded in the fourth century BC, Epicureanism was the main alternative philosophy to Stoicism. Based upon the teachings of Greek philosopher Epicurus, the philosophy propounded an ethic of individual pleasure as the sole or chief good in life. Epicurus advocated living in such a way as to derive the greatest amount of pleasure possible during one's lifetime, yet doing so moderately in order to avoid the suffering incurred by overindulgence in such pleasure. It is not the same as hedonism which advocates the partaking in fleeting pleasures such as constant partying, sexual excess and decadent food. Epicurus considered prudence an important virtue and perceived excess and overindulgence to be contrary to the attainment of true happiness. The emphasis was placed on pleasures of the mind rather than on physical pleasures. For Epicurus, who you dine with is more important than what you eat. Epicurus lived a celibate life but did not impose this restriction on his followers. He ran a school from his home called The Garden, a small but prestigious gathering that emphasized friendship as an important ingredient of happiness. It was a sophisticated place by Athenian standards, counting women and slaves among its members and it was the first recorded organization to make vegetarianism a way of life. The school's popularity grew and it became, along with Stoicism and Skepticism, one of the three dominant schools of Hellenistic Philosophy. Epicureanism flourished for seven centuries. Stoic Six Pack 3: The Epicureans brings together six Epicurean master works: The Letters of Epicurus, Principal Doctrines of Epicurus, De Finibus Bonorum et Malorum by Cicero, On The Nature of Things by Lucretius, Upon The Gardens of Epicurus by William Temple, Stoics vs Epicureans by Robert Drew Hicks. These six texts provide a full introduction to Epicureanism from Epicurus himself in Letters and Principal Doctrines, perspective from perhaps the most articulate Roman of all, Cicero, in De Finibus Bonorum et Malorum, poetic elucidation from Lucretius in On The Nature of Things, analysis from English philosopher William Temple in Upon The Gardens of Epicurus and a direct comparison of Epicureanism with Stoicism in Robert Hicks's lively essay Stoics vs Epicureans. Thomas Jefferson referred to himself as an Epicurean. It is reasonable to infer that Epicurus had an influence on the founding father when he penned the immortal phrase "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." More recently, Stephen Greenblatt, in his best selling book The Swerve, identified himself as strongly sympathetic to Epicureanism.

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Customer Reviews

Surprisingly beautiful English translation. Captures Lucretius' Epicurean thought. A bit of trouble to read, but worth the effort.

A whisper from ancient time carrying a useful message for us.

Great collection!

A+

With everything I read on Facebook these days, this was SO REFRESHING. If only we have more people who thought like the Stoics in today's day and age. I don't normally like history, but I read this collection for purposes of research, and I have to say...wow, what different times we live in. People just don't THINK like this anymore. Want some good solid advice or some great thoughts to remind what really matters and how you really should concern yourself? Well, start here. Very nicely compiled collection. Loved it!

The works of the ancient Greeks that have survived give us insights into the thinking of our ancestors. Even though they did not have the benefit of the experience and research that has occurred over the past two thousand years, their intuitive hunches have often shown the way for the great thinkers that have come later.

Stoic Six Pack 3 - The Epicureans: On The Nature of Things, Letters and Principal Doctrines of Epicurus, De Finibus Bonorum et Malorum, The Garden of Epicurus and Stoics vs Epicureans • What a title! I've read a couple other sets similar to this and was very happy to find this one. The authors are outstanding: 1) Epicurus (341-270 BC) was an ancient Greek philosopher. 2) Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC-43 BC) was a Roman philosopher, politician, etc. 3) Titus Lucretius Carus (c. 99 BC-c. 55 BC) was a Roman poet and philosopher. 4) Sir William Temple, 1st Baronet (25 April 1628 - 27 January 1699) was an English statesman and essayist. 5) Robert Drew Hicks (1850-1929) was a classical scholar. High marks for this philosophical and thought provoking set of masterful works.

Creaky old translations, many available elsewhere on the Internet for free, of important Epicurean works. The Lucretius is unreadable, and available on Gutenberg for free. The translation of Lucretius that I like best is Rolfe Humphries, who fashions the title as "The way things are." http://www..com/Lucretius-Things-Rerum-Natura-Titus/dp/025320125X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1462827047&sr=8-1&keywords=lucretius+humphries Unfortunately, the Kindle edition of that book is yet another translation, also bad, by Slavitt, even though it claims to be by Humphries. "Look inside" and see for yourself. Just get the Humphries paperback, that's my advice. These Stoic sixpacks are convenient, and cheap, and I like the idea of providing accessible portable editions of classic works, but you can find much better translations, and it's worth it to seek them out. You have to read excerpts for yourself and decide which works best for you.

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