

Fremont Great Books Book Club
Discussion Questions for Epictetus' "The Art of Living"
December 21, 2024

1. What key distinction does Epictetus claim we must bear in mind when making decisions about what to pursue? Which kinds of things does he think we should strive for, and which should we try to avoid?
2. Epictetus claims that "there is nothing intrinsically evil in the world." What does he mean by this? What implications does he think this view has for how we should live our lives? Do you find his position plausible?
3. What is Epictetus's view of the gods, and how does it inform his views about how we ought to live? To what extent are his ethical views separable from his theological beliefs?
4. Marcus Aurelius was one of Epictetus' most famous students. If you have read Aurelius' "Meditations" (a December 2018 pick for this book club), did you notice the influence of Epictetus on Aurelius' famous work?
5. Did you learn anything new from reading this book? If you didn't learn anything new, do you think there was any guidance you want to apply to your own life?

LINKS & RESOURCES

Project Gutenberg 1948 Translation of the Enchiridion:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/45109/pg45109-images.html>

<https://dailystoic.com/epictetus-discourses-summary-quotes/>

How to Read Epictetus (The Daily Stoic): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnFxKECY3Ck>

<https://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780190209803/stud/p1/epictetus/study/>