

REGISTRY REPORT

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New Stoa News

Quick, easy, and free! Due to popular demand, the College of Stoic Philosophers now offers a new short course called, *Introduction to Stoicism*. A number of our members have expressed an interest in studying at the College, but were unable to make the commitment required by the longer Stoic Essentials Course. The tutors listened and created a new, introductory course that can be completed in a few weeks of your spare time—or less! Go to the New Stoa website and click on the *College* page for more information. The Dean of Students will help with your inquiries.

Stoic Discussion Groups. New members of the Stoic community often express an interest in meeting and talking with other members. Fortunately, we have a considerable variety of groups from which to choose, and now you can go to one place and see them all. We've added a new page on the New Stoa website devoted exclusively to discussion groups. Go to New Stoa, click on *Discussion Groups*, and join the conversation online.

New Members

Glenn Thomas Davis (1963-) is an Advertising Creative Director from Lewis Center, Ohio. "I was introduced to Stoicism through William Irvine's wonderful book, *A Guide to the Good Life*, and since then I have been reading and re-reading Epictetus, turning to Stoicism for strength in the midst of challenging life circumstances. I'm a scientific naturalist and am interested in what aspects of Stoicism, if any, might change in the light of our present scientific understanding of human consciousness and the universe."

Jeff Fails (1960-) is the VP Operations, Engineering Consultant in Louisiana. His motto is to "Live according to Nature."

Eric Mattingly (1980-) is a librarian from Hardinsburg, Kentucky. He writes, "For years I have explored the philosophy of Spinoza who is something of a hero of mine. The thing is, though I ran into his system in my philosophy classes, I only began to find it personally meaningful when read "backwards"-- that is, moving from his ethical propositions back into his metaphysical ones. In my opinion, Spinoza advocated a highly naturalized form of Stoicism, so it became a natural extension of my personal interests to read the original Stoics. I then became a fan, and perhaps a convert (though I have some more thinking to do)."

Doug Richer, a truck driver by trade "with lots of time to contemplate our universe. I have studied all religions and have found my spiritual home in Stoicism. I have found that once you adopt this way of life, you see the world as it truly is one beauty, one soul always changing, evolving new things as it intended, for all eternity, and the comfort of knowing we are all a part of this forever, and to live with virtue so that we may look back and be glad for a life lived well."

Raimonds Zerbis (1990-) is a high school student from Riga, Latvia. He writes, "I have read most of the discourses of Epictetus and some bits from Marcus Aurelius. I haven't had the chance to read them more since it seems that Stoic books are quite rare and cannot be found in any of the libraries that I have visited." He goes on to say that he is "very interested in the Stoic philosophy for its practicality, logic, and for the fact that it is concerned about reality and does not waste time with things that are either highly unlikely or things that do not concern us directly, as well as for its potential to allow us to easily overcome the problems we face in our daily lives and the problems we face on an international level."

Spotlight

This interview was deleted at the request of the subject.

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The View From Above

Observe the courses of the stars as if you were to run those courses with them; have constantly in mind the changes of the elements into one another, for such thoughts sweep away the squalor of life on earth. And when you talk about men you should look upon things on earth as one who looks from above on things below

Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*, Book 7, 47-8

The 20th of July was the 40th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon. In all the hoopla and speeches celebrating the three members of the crew of Apollo 11, one quote stood out in my mind. Maybe you saw it and maybe you didn't, but either way it bears repeating. It was the command module pilot, **Michael Collins**, who spoke the most eloquently and sounded like he had Marcus Aurelius in mind when he said:

I really believe that if the political leaders of the world could see their planet from a distance of 100,000 miles their outlook could be fundamentally changed. That all-important border would be invisible, that noisy argument silenced. The tiny globe would continue to turn, serenely ignoring its subdivisions, presenting a unified facade that would cry out for unified understanding, for homogeneous treatment. The Earth must become as it appears: blue and white, not capitalist or communist; blue and white, not rich or poor; blue and white, not envious or envied.

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Thank you for reading,

Erik