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Discourses and Selected Writings is a transcribed collection of informal lectures given by the philosopher around AD A gateway into the life and mind of a great intellectual, it is also an important example of the usage of Koine or? Greek, an ancestor to Standard Modern Greek. The edition also includes the Enchiridion Handbook and fragments. The notes and recommended readings are current and helpful. There is one caveat though: The product description does not make this clear. Dobbin justifies omitting selected discourses from books due to repetition of themes. For example in book 3, sections , , , 21, are missing. In book 4, discourses have been omitted. This unfortunately limits the usefulness of the text. If you want the complete text, I recommend the Everyman edition edited by Christopher Gill, with a revised translation by Robin Hard. Better yet if you can afford it, get the two volume Loeb Classical Library edition with the facing Greek text. In short, this is a nice abridged edition of Epictetus, useful for those who want a streamlined introduction to the philosopher, but limited due to the abridgment. The goal in my case is the correct use of impressions. While I am hardly an expert in philosophy, it has made for some fascinating reading, and the writings of the Stoics have particularly grabbed me, especially Epictetus. He was the first Stoic writer I read. I later went on to read Marcus Aurelius and parts of Seneca, but I must confess that Epictetus is my favorite. Well, I found none of the above. Also central to Stoic thought is the importance of correct reasoning. I was also pleasantly surprised that Stoicism does not advocate an uncaring view of the world. I had a good chuckle over the the title: They are well worth reading. Perhaps the best edition for a course on Ancient Philosophy By Bruce Loudon on May 26, I have taught an Ancient Philosophy course a few times, always including a few meetings on Epictetus. I highly recommend this edition. One of my favorite books of all time By Rodrigo on Feb 10, The Greeks were really something else and for me Epictetus is at the top of the list. He was a very clear thinker and presented his ideas very vividly, in a diatribe or near-dialogue form. Some of the things he discusses are incredible for his time, for example Discourse I, 19 includes this gem: We do not expect someone, after all, to be indifferent regarding himself and his welfare. Stoic philosophers By Terry Henry on Dec 12, This book has a myriad of ways to handle life and percieve life. His teachings were keen and so thoughtful. You do not have to agree with everything he espouses, but there are many morsels out there that can make you think and give you assistance in this sojourn called life. Stoicism presented by one of its greatest sons. This book presents a time in philosophy when philosophy was not words but about the pursuit of the question "How does one live a good life. The translation is lively and readable, and Epictetus comes across sounding like a Roman version of Tyler Durden. A gem from the past. A propos today, hence the word classic. By Mark Ghaly on Jul 02, Excellent book, it is a record of the lecturer as recorded by a faithful student. An intimate look at stoic thought, unedited, unabridged, as if one is transposed in time to sit and listen to the master. A glimpse at Hellenistic thought. There is good advice about accepting our mortality. A great old book of philosophy that confirms many Christian principles in modern religion By Ronnie Lee on Aug 31, This is a very good book written concerning the philosophy of Epictetus. This was written about the philosophy of Epictetus when he was in ancient Rome and Greece and the work responds to Zeus as God and Apollo as the greatest prophet and yet the philosophy of Epictetus is still very true and wise even through Christian standards of modern religion. It refers to the morality of believing in the existence of Gods, believing they rule with justice and that they have put you here to obey them whatever happens to believe the reason is the product of the highest intelligence. It refers to the morality and honor of making the mind the aim of improvement for moral standards to be achieved in actions and deeds and behavior and habit. It talks about detaching the self from exteriors or materialism so that the individual is free from sins like envy and that the individual is not controlled by exteriors thus the individual has control over themselves in being good, teaching good and doing good in wisdom, honor and achievement. It refers to the wisdoms of the externals of the will and the internals of the will and how an individual should act upon the reasoning of the impressions of the will. Overall, it is a great

book although Epictetus seems very hot headed sometimes and this may be due to his strong personal opinions about living a life of solitude as a philosopher or cynic. He recommends others to follow his way if they can follow through with the lifestyle of a philosopher but if not to stick to their own tasks that they have been given through the will of God. The tone of the Discourses are more academic than either Meditations or Letters from a Stoic but if that does not deter you then By Du Nguyen on Jan 04, The Discourses are a series of 5 books of which only 4 exists today by a student of Epictetus who has written down the teachings and philosophy of Epictetus. Epictetus are one of the most prominent philosophers of stoicism and was born a slave. While being a slave he was permitted to attend lectures which led him to become a stoic. When he was freed he went to Greece and opened a philosophy school. The Discourses and fragments are incredibly powerful resources to use in your own life. While it is not as readable as Marcus Aurelius This book is packed with great big ideas. So when trouble comes, think of yourself as a wrestler whom God, like a trainer, has paired with a tough young buck. To turn you into Olympic-class material. But this is going to take some sweat to accomplish. Along with Seneca and Marcus Aurelius, the three make up a very interesting bunch. Epictetus was a former slave turned philosopher who lived from a little later than Seneca and before Aurelius. This book is a transcription of the informal lectures Epictetus gave to his students. While the Enchiridion is incredibly potent, with this one we get to see just how witty Epictetus is as he unpacks his ideas during lectures. Both the Enchiridion and Discourses were transcribed and published by one of his students, Arrian. He also deeply influenced James Stockdale who called Epictetus his patron saint. The Good, the Bad - And the indifferent. Impressions - Our 1 threat. Avoid Grime - Hang out with philosophers. May we answer his call as we step forward into our highest potential, optimize, actualize and give our greatest gifts in greatest service to the world. Find out more at brianjohnson. Another reviewer compares the voice of Epictetus in this Penguin translation with Tyler Durden, the antihero in the novel Fight Club by Chuck Pahlaniuk. I suspect they have not read Fight Club nor Epictetus, to have made this invidious comparison. Epictetus is a tough Roman former-slave, but his eloquence rises out of passionate devotion to Socrates, and to the educational labor of bringing his listeners into a state of inner serenity, into "accord with nature". I recommend the George Long translation instead. I also compared the Oldfather and Matheson translations and found them suprisingly clunky, using "Thees and thous", and stilted in diction. It is helpful to show just how fierce the man must have really been. They may not read it this week or this year, but someday it might provide valuable perspective, as it has me. Always an intelligent introduction and lots of good footnotes and sometimes some By Amazon Customer on Dec 16, Penguin Classics editions are my favorites for all sorts of works. Always an intelligent introduction and lots of good footnotes and sometimes some well received supplemental materials. Cheaper than bookstore, good translation By Paulino on Oct 24, Needed it for school. Notes and Enchiridion in the back was useful for studying. This particular edition is in a Paperback format. It was published by Penguin Classics and has a total of pages in the book. To buy this book at the lowest price, Click Here.

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