

'This is a beautiful translation of a game-changing classic in Epicurean scholarship. A work of philosophy in its own right, Guyau exquisitely captures the powerful nature of an ethics of the "whole of life" and reveals its uniquely emancipatory potential. Finally, English readers can discover the magic of Guyau's prose that influenced many of the greatest thinkers of 19th-century materialism!'

**Thomas Nail, Professor of Philosophy, University of Denver, USA**

'This is a fascinating study of Epicurus, also containing a valuable account of Epicureanism in the early modern period, and it is an important document in the history of Epicureanism in its own right. Guyau is himself an unjustly neglected philosopher, making this volume doubly welcome.'

**John Sellars, Reader in Philosophy, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK**

'Once compulsory reading for Tolstoy, Nietzsche and Bergson, Guyau's study is three books in one: a masterful introduction to Epicureanism, a modern history of philosophy since Hobbes and Spinoza and a passionate defence of its utility as a guide to social and ethical conduct today. This translation will reestablish Guyau's reputation as one of the great intellects – and influencers – of the late nineteenth century.'

**James I. Porter, Irving Stone Professor of Rhetoric and Classics, University of California, Berkeley, USA**

This is the first English translation of a compelling and highly original reading of Epicurus by Jean-Marie Guyau. This book has long been recognized as one of the best and most concerted attempts to explore one of the most important, yet controversial ancient philosophers whose thought, Guyau claims, remains vital to modern and contemporary culture. Throughout the text we are introduced to the origins of the philosophy of pleasure in Ancient Greece, with Guyau clearly demonstrating how this idea persists through the history of philosophy and how it is an essential trait in the Western tradition.

With an introduction by Keith Ansell-Pearson and Federico Testa, which contextualizes the work of Guyau within the canon of French thought, and notes on both further reading and on Epicurean scholarship more generally, this translation also acts as a critical introduction to the philosophy of Guyau and Epicurus.

**KEITH ANSELL-PEARSON** holds a Personal Chair in Philosophy at the University of Warwick, UK.

**FEDERICO TESTA** is an Associate Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study of the University of Warwick, UK.

**RE-INVENTING PHILOSOPHY AS A WAY OF LIFE**

Series Editors: Keith Ansell-Pearson, Matthew Sharpe and Michael Ure

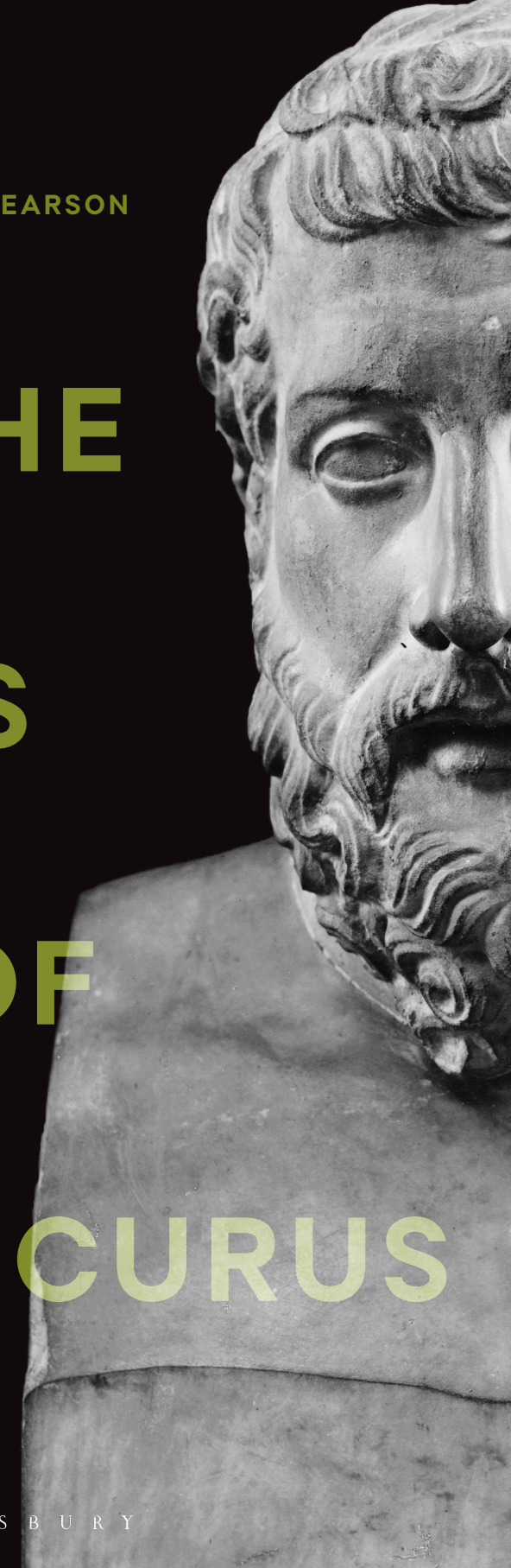
THE ETHICS OF EPICURUS

JEAN-MARIE GUYAU

**JEAN-MARIE GUYAU**

EDITED BY **KEITH ANSELL-PEARSON**  
AND **FEDERICO TESTA**

# THE ETHICS OF EPICURUS



PHILOSOPHY BLOOMSBURY ACADEMIC



Also available from  
Bloomsbury Academic  
[www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com)

Series design by Charlotte Daniels  
Cover image: Epicurus, marble bust  
(© colaimages / Alamy Stock Photo)



BLOOMSBURY