

# THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE BY PETER KREEFT

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## Review

"Kreeft has succeeded admirably in his revival of Socrates. . . . Kreeft's Socrates [is] recognizably the gadfly moralist, irreverent and reverent about just the right things." (The Reformed Journal)

"Any reader sitting down to persue these dialogues . . . [will] find himself roused, amused, entertained and instructed. Peter Kreeft does what all great teachers do: he returns us, again and again and again, to what T. S. Eliot called 'the permanent things.' " (Thomas Howard)

## About the Author

Peter J. Kreeft (Ph.D., Fordham University) is professor of philosophy at Boston College where he has taught since 1965. A popular lecturer, he has also taught at many other colleges, seminaries and educational institutions in the eastern United States. Kreeft has written more than fifty books, including The Best Things in Life, The Journey, How to Win the Culture War and, with Ronald Tacelli, Handbook of Christian Apologetics.

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What are the best things in life? Questions like that may boggle your mind. But they don't boggle Socrates. The indomitable old Greek brings his unending questions to Desperate State University. With him come the same mind-opening and spirit-stretching challenge that disrupted ancient Athens.

- What is the purpose of education?
- Why do we make love?
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- What is the greatest good?
- Is belief in God like belief in Santa Claus?

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## Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Socrates for the modern man

By Austin

A entertaining and insightful take on how Socrates would have interacted with the issues of today. Peter Kreeft lets Socrates's voice come through as he comments on morality, epistemology, drugs, happiness, capitalism and communism, education, and other topics. Written in the form of a Socratic dialogue, Kreeft effectively shows how philosophy and human reason gestures towards the truth revealed in Scripture. Ultimately, he also shows the shortcomings of human reason because it can only get us so far.

This is a great book for anyone studying Plato and Socrates, or who is interested in "natural law" approaches to life. It also provides helpful discussion points for popular issues of our day.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Good, but not Kreeft's best

By Corum Seth Smith

As an aside, let me just say that reading the book recalled fond memories of my college and graduate school years, and even reminded me of some people I knew.

The premise of the book is contained in its title: What are "the best things in life?" The modern mind is exposed as one that is so introspective that it is oblivious to the workings of logic, reason, and basic self-understanding. Thus an irony is exposed, namely the inclination toward the self-delusional of the "me" generations.

Socrates' famous dictum: "the unexamined life isn't worth living," is the central tenet of the book. Two people closely evaluate their lives and realize that everything may not be as it seems.

The hopeful effect this will have on a reader is for he or she to turn and examine his or her own life. The book makes some interesting points, and is a "lighter" read than some of Kreeft's theological and philosophical treatises.

All in all, I like the book.

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent primer on philosophy!

By John DePoe

What is the meaning of life? Should I go to college? What kind of job do I want? - These are the kinds of questions Kreeft (via Socrates) presents to the reader in his book. The dialogs are short, witty, and make excellent points. This book proves that Kreeft is a master of common sense and philosophy. This book would be perfect for mature high school students and any college student (and beyond college too). Of course, the focus of the book is on a question we hardly stop to think about as we trudge through life: What are we living for? Using "means" and "ends" Aristotelian principles, he does an excellent job of bringing about awareness of the Summum Bonum. It is a short and easy read that will challenge the way most Americans live.

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