

Searches On: "Accused of Being An Epicurean" - Manfred, 1232-1266

Post by "Cassius" of May 21, 2021 at 9:32 AM

It looks like a search on "accused of being an Epicurean" could be helpful, however it's probably more helpful for older figures than more recent ones who might be figures in literature and accused of being Epicurean only because they wrote unconventional/sexy literature.

Here's one that may be promising beyond his personal habits.

[Google books entry](#)

whom Dante places among the heretics in Canto 10 of the *INFERNO*, Manfred was accused of being an Epicurean. Certainly he was something of a profligate, known for enjoying food and drink and for keeping concubines. He was also on friendly terms with Saracens, some of whom he hired to be mercenaries in his army. These actions raised suspicions about his orthodoxy. But the fact that he was a Ghibelline and hence opposed the secular power of the papacy made him unpopular with ecclesiastical authorities who brought these charges of heresy against him.

Upon the death of his father in 1250, Manfred was named regent of the Kingdom of Sicily in the absence of his half brother, Conrad IV. When Conrad died in 1254, the crown passed to Conrad's son, Conradin, who was an infant at the time. The barons of Sicily therefore asked Manfred to act as regent once more. In 1258 when rumor reached the barons that the young Conradin had died, Manfred was elected king of Sicily and crowned in Palermo on August 10, 1258.

Pope Alexander IV, however, thought of Manfred as a heretic and infidel and would not tolerate him on the Sicilian throne. Alexander excommunicated Manfred in 1258. In 1261 Alexander's successor, Urban IV, excommunicated Manfred again and actively began to seek a replacement. He offered the Sicilian Crown to the French king Louis IX (i.e., Saint Louis), who refused. Urban then offered the crown to CHARLES OF ANJOU, Louis's brother. When the offer was reaffirmed by Urban's successor, Clement IV, Charles accepted and in 1265 marched into Italy at the head of a great army. On January 6, 1266, Charles was crowned in Rome, after which he