

Was Epicurus really arrogant?

Post by “smoothiekiwi” of January 8, 2022 at 3:13 PM

Quote

If you have a page and line number I'd like to see that, rather than just post general comments that in general I think DeWitt is the best available commentator. I don't accept that this was Epicurus' position (that he was the only wise man).

I thought of that myself, I was simply lazy 😊

Well then. The portrait quote- page 101:

Quote

He gave sittings for his own portrait, which he must have known would be copied. Naturally, the custom was not peculiar to Epicureans, because statuettes of Socrates are extant and Origen mentions portable images of Aristotle and Democritus.⁶⁰ What was peculiar to the Epicureans was the integration of the custom with their doctrine. The Pauline doctrine of "all members in one body" was anticipated by them.

The "wise man" and "philosopher" part:

Quote

Epicurus declared himself to be "self-taught" and he arrogated to himself the title of Sage or Wise Man, a concept familiar to the Greeks. He could not claim inspiration, because he denied all participation of the gods in human affairs. He was capable, however, of claiming perfection of knowledge, because he had approximated to the life of the gods. Thus to him his wisdom was not a revelation, though it was such to his disciples.

Still seems like a weak excuse for me.

And:

Quote

Parallel to the distinction between the head as "leader" and the three next in rank as "associate leaders" was the difference between sophos, the sapiens, "wise man," and the philosophos, "philosopher."²⁸ The former title was reserved by Epicurus for himself

alone, a seeming arrogance which elicited the sneers of his detractors.²⁹ The three below him were merely "philosophers," which marks the title as being on the same footing as "associate leaders.

and on the celebration of his mother and father birthdays:

Quote

He scrupulously observed the performance of the customary rites in honor of his father, mother, and brothers and also of members of his circle who predeceased him.⁷¹ In addition to this he instituted the custom of composing and publishing pious memoirs of the deceased associates.