

# Did Epicurus really oversell the power of science to diminish anxiety?

Post by “Little Rocker” of February 16, 2023 at 2:11 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Were you thinking of Epicurus maybe?

"Epicurus's teachings caused strife in Mytilene and he was forced to leave." (Wikipedia)

DeWitt pieces together an intriguing piece of historical fiction to flesh out Epicurus's experience and expulsion from Mytilene.

Found it:

One source has a certain Philodemus driven from the Sicilian town of Himera when his teachings were thought to have incurred divine wrath in the form of an epidemic (Aelian, in *Suda*, s.vv. *Himeraiai*, *sukophantein*, and *timôntai*; cf. Sider 1997, 9-10). The reconstruction of the testimonium is somewhat difficult, and nothing says that it must have to do with our Philodemus. Still, it would not be unusual for an Epicurean to be accused of atheism, and new readings in Philodemus' *Index Academicorum* (cf. Fleischer 2017b) show that he did indeed spend time in Sicily. (From [Blank](#), SEP)