

Epicurean Views On Hierarchy In Social Structures

Post by “Peter Konstans” of March 17, 2024 at 9:47 AM

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or made any sort of exhortation about how people should best govern themselves

They did have thoughts on how those who govern should act.

There's a missing book of Epicurus titled Of Kingship.

Philodemus wrote On The Good King According to Homer.

There were Epicurean advisors to kings.

It seems to me they had specific ideas on how to govern but they would rather advise rulers than rule themselves.

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According to Plutarch the Epicureans wrote on kingship (with which they had the new Macedonian monarchies in mind) to warn of the dangers of living with kings or of being a king.

How many instances we have of them advising kings? The only instance I know of is an Epicurean warning Pyrrhus to stop his adventures. But this was not in a formal capacity in the way modern governments have paid advisors but in the context of monarchs surrounding themselves with refined company, including philosophers.

Do you agree with McConnells idea that the Epicureans considered kingship to be the ideal form of government for Epicureans to adjust to?

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