

# Episode 230 - Cicero's OTNOTG - 05 - Velleius Attacks Misplaced Ideas of Divinity

Post by “Bryan” of May 28, 2024 at 6:34 PM

The word "heresy" originating from ἄρσις -- Epicurus' main word for "choice," is indeed poignant.

I agree it is good that our school has no tradition of calling for violence on those who disagree with us. The frequent calls for open and underhanded violence to people who disagree with you in religious texts should be shameful -- but is unfortunately common, for example, in the Mishneh Torah.

As we know, the advice for our school is:

*Rotzeah uShmirat Nefesh* 4.10: "The [following are considered] Epicureans (מִסְרוּקִיפָאָה, Ha'Epikorsim): those who worship idols or commit transgressions in order to provoke anger. Even if one eats non-kosher meat or wears garments of mixed fabric to provoke anger, he is considered an Epicurean (סְרוּקִיפָאָה, Epikoros). This includes those who deny the Torah and the Prophets. It is a commandment (מִצְוָה, mitzvah) to kill them. If one has the power to kill them with a sword in public, he should do so. If not, he should employ tricks until he causes their death. How? If one of them falls into a well (בְּעֵר, be'er) and a ladder (סֻלָּם, sulam) is inside, he should remove it and say, 'I must go and bring my son down from the roof; I will return the ladder to you,' and he should act similarly in such opportunities."