

Aetius and his "Placata"

Post by "Cassius" of October 10, 2024 at 6:52 PM

I've now read through most of the material and I don't see any of it that brands Aetius as a raving anti-Epicurean, so I wouldn't think he would be tempted to misrepresent Epicurus generally (or at least, not more than seems commonly the case).

My first impression is that the whole thing is a fairly small-"a" "academic" recitation of the various positions, not an argumentative piece at all. Early on I noticed some references to some theories about the gods (I think by Plato?) as nonsensical, but not much else in terms of forceful commentary. I don't see that wikipedia brands Aetius as belonging to a particular school, so it will remain interesting to me to try to determine where his preferences are found.

Also do we know anything about the meaning of his name? I doubt it means anything but I see the better known but significantly later ancient by this name was a Roman general:

Flavius Aetius^[a] (also spelled **Aëtius**,^[b] Latin: [a:'ɛtiʊs]; c. 390 – 454) was a [Roman](#) general and statesman of the [closing period of the Western Roman Empire](#). He was a military commander and the most influential man in the Empire for two decades (433–454). He managed policy in regard to the attacks of [barbarian federates](#) settled throughout the West. Notably, he mustered a large Roman and allied (*foederati*) army in the [Battle of the Catalaunian Plains](#), ending a devastating invasion of Gaul by [Attila](#) in 451, though the Hun and his subjugated allies still managed to invade Italy the following year, an incursion best remembered for the ruthless [Sack of Aquileia](#) and the intercession of [Pope Leo I](#).

Aetius has often been called the "[Last of the Romans](#)". [Edward Gibbon](#) refers to him as "the man universally celebrated as the terror of Barbarians and the support of the Republic" for his victory at the Catalaunian Plains.^[4] [J.B. Bury](#) notes, "That he was the one prop and stay of the Western Empire during his life time was the unanimous verdict of his contemporaries."^[5]