

P.Herc. 1005 from Les Epicuriens (A First Draft Translation)

Post by "Bryan" of May 1, 2025 at 12:40 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

Zeno's name doesn't appear in the manuscript, so I'd suggest looking at Epicurus's titles, too.

I agree.

Zeno's name is not preserved in that column of P.Herc. 1005. (7/10), so while many scholars **infer Zeno of Sidon** as the author of these books, I am unsure.

1. Περὶ τῆς τῶν Ἄτόμων Ἀνομοιότητος (On the Dissimilarity of Atoms)
2. Περὶ Παρεγκλίσεως καὶ τῆς τοῦ Ἄθροου Προκαταρχῆς (On the Swerve and the Initial Beginning of the Aggregate)
- 3.0 Περὶ Τελῶν (On Fulfillments, "On Ends"), which contains
- 3.1 Περὶ Τελειώσεως Ἄκρας καὶ τῆς Εὐδαιμονίας (On the Highest Perfection and Wellbeing)
4. Περὶ Γραμματικῆς (On Grammar)
5. Περὶ Ἱστορίας (On History)
6. Περὶ Παροιμιῶν καὶ τῶν Ὅμοίων (On Proverbs and Similar Things)
7. Περὶ Λέξεως (On Terminology)
8. Περὶ Ποιημάτων Χρήσεως (On the Usage of Poems)
9. Περὶ Εὐσεβείας (On Piety)

Zeno is mentioned once in the succeeding surviving columns, where Philódēmos is talking about his time with Zeno, and their frustration that "most of the Epicureans" have "inaction in the books."

We know Epikouros wrote an "On Piety" (as Cicero and Philodemus say) but for the rest of these, I think this is the only source (these are not in D.L.'s list).

A translation of the second half of the column, with speculative insertions is:

"...but also, in response to the accusations against the reasoning and the way of life of those around Epíkouros - through these writings, he [*i.e.*, Zeno of Sidon][?] made his defense - supplying incredible [*amounts of material*] of the things in [*Epíkouros*'][?] books concerning each:

such as *On Grammar*, *On History*, *On Proverbs and Similar Things*, and *On Terminology*, and *On the Usage of Poems*, and *On Piety...*"

Another possibility is that both are true. Just as there was "On Piety by Epikouros" and also an "On Piety by Philodemus" -- these titles could be shared by Zeno and Epikouros.

Less important, but just for fun:

[Quote from Don](#)

black, short and deformed. (πάντας ἀνθρώπους μέλανα[ς] εἶναι καὶ μικροὺς καὶ δι[εσ]τραμμένους) [Book footnote suggests a reference to "Pygmies"]

Although he does talk about Anthony having Pygmies in another work, here I do not think Pygmies are in-mind:

"..but it will be possible if someone were to present this in a similar way and also those things that all the [*Epicureans*] accomplished who entered into our school along with Hérmarchos: [*presenting them*] as those who had intended [*to do something*] and also as those who had accomplished [*that thing*], which I do not think [*was the case*] in times before [*them*] - with all humanity [*before then*] being obscure [*in their expressions*], small [*minded*], and corrupted [*in their actions*]..."