

Ancient Greek/Roman Customs, Culture, and Clothing

Post by “Kalosyni” of September 17, 2025 at 7:18 PM

Epicurus likely would have been familiar with the cult of Eirene (eirene = peace).

Quote

Eirene ([/aɪˈriːniː/](#); [Ancient Greek](#): Εἰρήνη, *Eirḗnē*, [\[ejˈrɛːnɛː\]](#), lit. "Peace"),^[1] more commonly known in English as **Peace**, is one of the [Horae](#), the personification and goddess of peace in [Greek mythology](#) and [ancient religion](#). She was depicted in art as a beautiful young woman carrying a [cornucopia](#), [sceptre](#), and a torch or [rhyton](#). She is usually said to be the daughter of [Zeus](#) and [Themis](#) and thus sister of [Dike](#) and [Eunomia](#). Her [Roman](#) equivalent is the goddess [Pax](#).

Eirene was particularly well regarded by the citizens of Athens. After a naval victory over [Sparta](#) in 375 BC, the Athenians established a cult for Peace, erecting [altars](#) to her. They held an annual state sacrifice to her after 371 BC to commemorate the [Common Peace](#) of that year and set up a votive statue in her honour in the [Agora of Athens](#). The statue was executed in bronze by [Cephisodotus the Elder](#), likely the father or uncle^[2] of the famous sculptor [Praxiteles](#). It was acclaimed by the Athenians, who depicted it on vases and coins.^[3]

Although the statue is now lost, it was copied in marble by the Romans; one of the best surviving copies is in the [Munich Glyptothek](#). It depicts the goddess carrying a child with her left arm—[Plutus](#), the god of plenty and son of [Demeter](#), the goddess of agriculture. Peace's missing right hand once held a sceptre. She is shown gazing maternally at Plutus, who is looking back at her trustingly. The statue is an allegory for Plenty (i.e., Plutus) prospering under the protection of Peace; it constituted a public appeal to good sense.^[3] The copy in the Glyptothek was originally in the collection of the [Villa Albani](#) in Rome but was looted and taken to France by [Napoleon I](#). Following Napoleon's fall, the statue was bought by [Ludwig I of Bavaria](#).^[4]

source: [Wikipedia](#)