

The Tetrpharmakon - Sound Epicurean Doctrine, or Oversimplification?

Post by “Don” of December 7, 2020 at 3:38 PM

I'll reply more fully later, but the Tetrpharmakos is contained in P.Herc 1005, column V.

Here is a page I just found from Hiram:

<https://societyofepicurus.com/on-philodemus-scroll-1005/>

He says: Philodemus is aware of the utility of summaries and outlines, and in fact not only is he (and/or his Scholarch Zeno of Sidon) responsible for the shortened formulation known as the Tetrpharmakos (Four Cures), but he also instructs his students to write outlines of the doctrines on wealth. So he is making full use of these outlines and summaries (also known as Epitomes) in his own method of teaching, and yet he also instructs his students to delve into the sources and read the books. So he is NOT telling people to avoid the use of outlines—he would not have forbidden a practice that he himself engaged in. What he was saying is that the outlines are tools for memorizing and learning, not an excuse to neglect our philosophical studies.