

Epicurus' Favorite Insults

Post by “Cassius” of April 29, 2021 at 1:15 PM

The list of insults used by Epicurus against his opponents, as listed by Diogenes Laertius, is colorful, but there is also a lot to learn from taking them apart and dissecting them. That's a task that probably can't be handled in one thread, but this is a place to start. If you've seen commentators give explanations for these, please add them to the thread . In each case we ought to explore who the opponent is, why he was an opponent, and the basis in truth for why Epicurus' insult is biting.

Here's the list:

1. **Nausiphanes:** 'The mollusk,' 'The illiterate,' 'The cheat,' 'The harlot.'
2. The **followers of Plato:** 'Flatterers of Dionysus,'
3. **Plato:** 'The golden man,'
4. **Aristotle:** 'The debauchee,' saying that he devoured his inheritance and then enlisted and sold drugs.
5. **Protagoras:** 'Porter' or 'Copier of Democritus,' saying that he taught in the village schools.
6. **Heraclitus:** 'The Muddler,'
7. **Democritus:** Lerocritus ('judge of nonsense'),
8. **Antidorus:** Sannidorus ('Maniac'),
9. **the Cynics:** 'Enemies of Hellas,'
10. **the Logicians:** 'The destroyers,'
11. **Pyrrho:** 'The uneducated fool.'

Anyone who can help, please add a post below and we can compile the result either here in this first post of the thread, or in the lexicon, or some other logical place, over time.