

Where Is Epicurus In The "School of Athens"?

Post by "Don" of May 17, 2021 at 10:51 PM

I have to agree with [Joshua](#) while also saying clearly I appreciate the passion and the general sentiment of [Cassius](#) 's post.

Once Epicurus's school and legacy were pretty much wiped out by the Justinian closures of the schools in the 500s or Arabs in the 700s if the Epicureans had a presence in Alexandria, they weren't considered a threat. They were once! No question! But the Triumph of Christianity in the literal sense of a Roman triumph where you celebrate the crushing of your enemies was total.

his site has some interesting excerpts:

<http://www.bede.org.uk/justinian.htm>

I agree that there may have been stray pockets of Epicureans and Epicureanism scattered about, but I have doubts there was a bust of Epicurus secreted away in the Vatican for them to throw eggs at, so to speak. The "Secret Archive" has been open to researchers for a number of years. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_A...ive?wprov=sfla1 I don't think they have the mummified body of Jesus hidden somewhere either https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Another_R...ion?wprov=sfla1 Once Epicurus and his school and its students were stamped out, viciously and with maximum efficiency, I don't think the Church would have worried you much. They wielded the literal power of life and death over swaths of the world by the 400s and consolidated power soon after. They may have kept around a bust of Socrates or Aristotle because they could incorporate Socratic, Platonic, Aristotelian, and Stoic ideas into Christianity. Anything of value from Epicurus they take, mold to their own, and completely erase it's provenance. They had nothing to fear (they thought) from a few stray letters or a copy or two of some obscure Latin poet. His Latin is elegant. What have we to fear.

I can't recall if you or Elli shared the link to Takis's paper but I accidently ran across it: <https://www.epicuros.gr/pages/en/Panag...rusPortrait.pdf> He seems to say it laid hidden until 1742.