

Where Is Epicurus In The "School of Athens"?

Post by "Eikadistes" of May 21, 2021 at 8:37 AM

Does anyone have a **single** source which mentions **any** historical figure who would have been familiar with Epicurean philosophy in the Late Middle Ages?

In the 13th century, Danté mentions contemporary "Epicureans" by reputation, *but fails to name any Epicurean teachers or writers*. Our next recorded mention of Epicurean philosophy is **several hundred** years later, at the beginning of the Renaissance.

All publicly-identifiable busts of Epicurus in the 21st-century were buried in the 16th.

If 25-year-old Raphael **DID** put Epicurus in his fresco, then *The School of Athens* isn't simply commissioned, Vatican artwork, but a personal, Epicurean **treasure**. If this were the case, I would fully expect there to be other examples of Epicurean art to normalize Raphael's fresco as an example of a historical trend, rather than as a unique exception to the prevailing trend, that Epicurean philosophy was functionally neglected for 300 years.