

# *Epicurus on Dialectic*

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## **I The Rejection of Dialectic**

... Epicurus, who scorns and mocks the whole of dialectic, can't be got to grant that the proposition 'Either Hermarchus will be alive tomorrow or he will not be alive' is true ...

(Cic., *Luc.* 97)<sup>1</sup>

Already in the second part of philosophy, that known as *logikê* and concerned with questioning and arguing, your man [Epicurus] seems to me manifestly unarmed and naked. He abolishes definitions; he teaches nothing about division and partition; he does not convey how an argument should be constructed and a conclusion drawn; he does not explain a method for solving sophisms and distinguishing ambiguous terms.

(Cic., *Fin.* 1.22)<sup>2</sup>

... Epicurus scorns dialectic, which contains the entire science of discerning what each thing entails, of judging of what kind each thing is, and of arguing methodically ...

(Cic., *Fin.* 2.18)<sup>3</sup>