

# Torquatus' Statement of the Epicurean View Of The Ultimate Good In "On Ends"

**Post by "Cassius" of October 6, 2021 at 3:49 PM**

Unfortunately this section of DeWitt does not seek to explain the "witticism" -- but does include some gratifying slams at Chrysippus and ultimately labels logicians like him as "intellectual eunuchs" 😊

competition with the Academy and the Peripatos was waged with the pen. There is no record of rivalry or animosity between Epicurus and Zeno.<sup>20</sup> There was no need for them to clash. The former was using Athens as a center from which to disseminate his new philosophy among Greeks everywhere. Zeno addressed himself directly to the adult Athenian citizen, as is indicated by the fact that he chose the Painted Stoa adjoining the market place as the stage for his lectures. Even his immediate successors, Cleanthes and Sphaerus, though they wrote against atomism and Democritus,<sup>21</sup> are not on record as having attacked Epicurus.

It was Chrysippus (d. 206 B.C.), the second founder of Stoicism, who first decided that Epicurus and not atomism should be the target. He was bitten by jealousy and set out to outdo his rival even in bulk of publications; his output was upward of 700 rolls, more than double the 300 of Epicurus.<sup>22</sup> Even in death he was determined to have the last word and provided that his tomb in the Cerameicus should be marked by a statue of himself so posed as to demonstrate that pleasure was not the end or telos.<sup>23</sup> It was his great achievement to develop the study of logic, for which he won a permanent place in the curriculum of studies,

332

#### EXTENSION, SUBMERGENCE, AND REVIVAL

thus contributing handsomely to the growing sterility of ancient culture. Whatever be the merits of logic it is valueless for the increase of knowledge. A good logician is an intellectual eunuch.

An outstanding effect of the career of Chrysippus was to replace the Platonists and Peripatetics as first-line troops in the campaign against Epicureanism and relegate them to the auxiliaries. While the disciples of Epicurus were uniformly men of good will and desirous of peace, there were different breeds of Stoics, some dignified, others vulgar. Some were unprincipled and among them no weapons were barred; when logic seemed futile they resorted to the poison gas of scandal and imputed to the pen of Epicurus collections of obscene letters.<sup>24</sup> The last stage of this steady but diversified opposition assumed the form of

Maybe we can find some articles discussing this, [because the statue or something like still exists, correct?](#)

