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Post by “Don” of November 10, 2021 at 3:32 AM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

I believe that DL mentions that Epicurus was an admirer of Pyrrho.

[Diogenes Laertius, Lives of Eminent Philosophers, BOOK IX, Chapter 11. PYRRHO \(c. 360-270 b.c.\)](#)

In debate he was looked down upon by no one, for he could both discourse at length and also sustain a cross-examination, so that even Nausiphanes when a young man was captivated by him : at all events he used to say that we should follow Pyrrho in disposition but himself in doctrine ; and he would often remark that Epicurus, greatly admiring Pyrrho's way of life, regularly asked him for information about Pyrrho ; and that he was so respected by his native city that they made him high priest, and on his account they voted that all philosophers should be exempt from taxation.

[Pyrrho \(Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy\)](#)

Pyrrho's Influence

Pyrrho's relation to the later Pyrrhonists has already been discussed. Given the importance of Pyrrhonism in earlier modern philosophy, Pyrrho's indirect influence may be thought of as very considerable. But beyond his being adopted as a figurehead in later Pyrrhonism—itsself never a widespread philosophical movement — Pyrrho seems to have had very little impact in the ancient world after his own lifetime. Both Cicero and Seneca refer to Pyrrho as a neglected figure without a following, and the surviving testimonia do not contradict this impression. It is possible that he had some influence on the form of scepticism adopted by Arcesilaus and other members of the Academy; the extent to which this is so is disputed and difficult to assess. It is also possible that the Epicureans, whose aim was also *ataraxia*, learned something from Pyrrho; there are indications of an association between Pyrrho and Nausiphanes, the teacher of Epicurus. But if so, the extent of the Epicureans' borrowing was strictly limited. For them, *ataraxia* is to be attained by coming to understand that the universe consists of atoms and void; and the Epicureans' attitude towards the senses was anything but one of mistrust.