

# Episode One Hundred Four - More Torquatus and a Question: Was The Ancient Epicurean Movement A Cult?

Post by "Joshua" of January 9, 2022 at 12:20 PM

Quote



I laugh when I think I had originally thought when I was involved in the Cicero portion of the podcast that that Torquatus material could be all covered in six weeks.

Oh, you'll love this episode! 😄

Show Notes:

Because we are looking at a passage that has Torquatus speaking extensively about "the wise man", we took the opportunity to discuss---and at great length---two recent questions raised by @smoothiekiwi.

[Was Epicurus a cult-like figure?](#) And,

[Was Epicurus arrogant?](#)

The first thing we want to do is thank smoothiekiwi for participating in the forum, for reading Norman Dewitt's book, and most of all for raising these excellent and fair questions. We spoke for an hour and a half about these two threads, but I don't want anyone to think that ours is the last word on these subjects. I hope to see more activity in those threads, and I have more to add myself.

On Epicurus' Portrait;

The best resource for this is [The Sculpted Word](#), by Bernard Frischer, who writes extensively on the statues, frescoes and portrait-rings of Epicurus, and how they relate to his philosophy.

On rings;

[A few threads](#) on the subject at this forum.

On [Cults](#);

[A checklist](#)

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2320-episode-one-hundred-four-more-torquatus-and-a-question-was-the-ancient-epicurean/?postID=15678#post15678>

[Inscription](#) of Diogenes of Oenoanda, translated by Martin Ferguson Smith

Alexander the Oracle Monger, by [Lucian](#)

On the character of Epicurus, by [Diogenes Laertius](#);

It is an open question how reliable Diogenes Laertius is as a biographer of Epicurus. It is widely agreed by scholars that his biography of Epicurus is the best one he wrote, and this does indicate some sympathy or partisanship on the biographers' part. It is an absolutely key surviving text for our school.

On the Pythagoreans;

[This](#) website is very spammy with ads, but it does explore the cultlike behavior of the Pythagorean school. If someone finds a better resource, we can replace this one.

[A Few Days in Athens](#), by [Frances Wright](#)

This book, written by an extraordinary woman in the nineteenth century and highly praised by Thomas Jefferson, is great "light-reading" on Epicurean philosophy. It is written as a novel, and is perhaps not thoroughly accurate--but it is very engaging.

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We had a very pleasant conversation today, and I hope others will enjoy it as well. I once again thank @smoothiekiwi for raising some very important questions!