

# Episode One Hundred Twenty-Six - Letter to Pythocles 01 - Introduction - On The Basic Approach of Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Cassius" of June 15, 2022 at 6:38 AM

## 2. THE CYZICENES

It was not, I imagine, with a heavy heart that Epicurus resolved to strike geometry from his school curriculum. To see why, one need only read Plato's prospectus for higher education in the Academy, in Book VII of the *Republic*, where the various branches of mathematics — arithmetic, plane and solid geometry, astronomy, and harmonics — are commended for their ability to draw the mind away from the changing world towards the contemplation of an unchanging reality. This document<sup>28</sup> might have prompted any materialist philosopher to think twice about the educational value of pure mathematics, notwithstanding its obvious uses as an applied discipline.