

Was Epicurus Sexually Active?

Post by "Don" of February 24, 2023 at 5:54 AM

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

Does eros necessarily imply being overwhelmed or carried away? Or just feeling romantic/sexual passion?

The verb ἔραμαι (of which ἐρασθήσεσθαι is a form) does mean "desire passionately, lust after; desire eagerly" so there's a connotation of over the top sexual desire and lust.

Consider how the word "erotic" is used in English as sexually explicit: "Relating to or tending to arouse sexual desire or excitement:

- erotic entertainment and services
- I had an erotic dream last night.
- There's a local cinema that only shows erotic movies."

To my mind, "feeling romantic" and "feeling sexual passion" convey two similar but distinct feelings.

Eros was a god of love, desire, sexual passion, just like Aphrodite/Venus was a goddess of sex, desire, passion. The image that comes to mind after satyrs and nymphs ...uh... getting together in the forest.

[EROS - Greek Primordial God of Procreation](#)

Quote

Oppian, Halieutica 4. 10 ff :

"O cruel Eros (Love), crafty of counsel, of all gods fairest to behold with the eyes, of all most grievous when thou dost vex the heart with unforeseen assault, entering the soul like a storm-wind and breathing the bitter menace of fire, with hurricane of anguish and untempered pain. The shedding of tears is for thee a sweet delight and to hear the deep-wrung groan; to inflame a burning redness in the heart and to blight and wither the bloom upon the cheek, to make the eyes hollow and to wrest all the mind to madness. Many thou doest even roll to doom even those whom thou meetest in wild and wintry sort, fraught with frenzy; for in such festivals is thy delight.