

Paper On Epicurean Engagement With Society - Jeffrey Fish - "Not All Politicians Are Sisyphus"

Post by "Cassius" of March 6, 2023 at 10:35 PM

This is a fact of history that is new to me -- I was not aware that the historical Torquatus of Cicero's time had died as a hero in battle only a few years before *De Finibus* was written. Not sure exactly the implication of that but it strikes me that Fish is correct that this would have been a factor in Cicero choosing to use him as the Epicurean spokesman - presumably indicating Torquatus' good standing in Cicero's mind.

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his own safety for that of others,³¹ something no true Epicurean could ever consistently do. Cicero's intention in selecting Torquatus as his Epicurean spokesman was presumably to enforce a paradox, although the creation of a backdrop that served to subvert Torquatus' argument may also have been a factor. The fact that Torquatus had died as a hero in battle less than two years before the composition of *De finibus* will have been constantly present to the minds of its audience. Cicero is hardly alone in doubting