

Who to believe?

Post by “Eikadistes” of May 27, 2023 at 10:32 PM

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Is it right that there is no writings directly from Epicurus left?

Not at all. Among those works that have survived are his *Epistles* to *Herodotus*, *Pythokles*, *Menoikeus*, and *Idomeneus*, in addition to his *Last Will*. We have a list *Key Doctrines* from a similarly named work, and two, preserved lists of *Sayings*. We have several hundred *fragments* from Epicurus' works, famously organized by Hermann Usener. In addition to those source materials, we have secondary sources from Epicurean opponents who cite Epicurus directly, or else, Epicureans, themselves, who reinforce the original positions of Epicurus. As Epicurus' school is renown for being doctrinally conservative, we find more historical consistency between ancient Epicureans than with their opponents.