

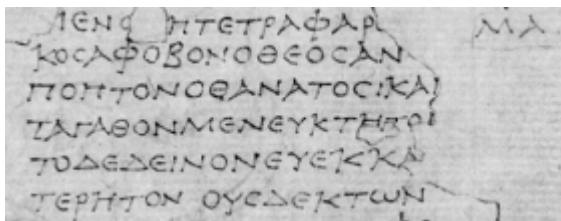
# August 2, 2023 - Wednesday Night Zoom Agenda - Vatican Sayings 16 & 17

Post by "Cassius" of August 3, 2023 at 6:16 AM

One of the things that came up in this session was discussion of the recent work by Don and Nate and others on how to number/organize/present the [Principal Doctrines](#). Seems like we are closer but not actually there yet to pin down when the numbering was "first" added and by whom.

A related question came up of "who was the first" to apply the label "tetrapharmakos" to the four statements that are preserved apparently by Philodemus in the Herculaneum papyrus.

This seems to be the record on which everything is based:



[Principal Doctrines - Wikipedia](#)

The "[tetrapharmakos](#)" was originally a compound of four drugs ([wax](#), [tallow](#), [pitch](#) and [resin](#)); the word has been used metaphorically by Roman-era Epicureans<sup>[5]</sup> to refer to the four remedies for healing the soul.<sup>[6]</sup>

Those notes are to Pamela Gordon who says this cannot be traced further back than Cicero (and doesn't in this source refer to anyone else who used the term):

5. ^ The name cannot be traced further back than Cicero and Philodemus. Pamela Gordon, *Epicurus in Lycia: The Second-century World of Diogenes of Oenoanda*, University of Michigan Press (1996), p. 61, fn 85, citing A. Angeli, "Compendi, eklogai, tetrapharmakos" (1986), p. 65.

And Liddel and Scott:

6. ^ See Liddell and Scott, *Greek-English Lexicon*, New Edition revised and Augmented by Stuart Jones, Oxford, Clarendon Press.

Those references would be interesting to track down to see how many "friendly" references to the term can be documented, or whether it was used disparagingly, especially in light of the

ability to interpret it as disparaging or trivializing, as DeWitt hints here:

198

#### SOUL, SENSATION, AND MIND

careful to say "atoms resembling those of wind and heat."\* Next, by naming four ingredients Lucretius has encouraged the notion that the number four was canonical with Epicurus as with Empedocles and Aristotle, which is incorrect. Even the name of the famous fourfold remedy, the tetrpharmacon, was not of Epicurean origin; Epicurus would never have compared his doctrines to a household concoction of wax, tallow, pitch, and resin.