

Julie Giovacchini - "The Tetrpharmakos, Authentic Formula Or Simplistic Summary Of Epicurean Ethics?"

Post by "Cassius" of August 4, 2023 at 1:10 PM

For some reason I am just seeing these posts. Thanks for finding this material Don!

I really want to try to get the sense of that French article so I will see what I can do.

Also although I really admire Diskin Clay I think I have to side with the Germans and take the position that the PD as we have them was probably not organized and published by Epicurus himself.

Kyriai Doxai was written as a forty-point creed to be memorized. Nineteenth-century scholarship (mostly in German) rejected the ancient conception of the nature of the *Kyriai Doxai*.³¹ Usener formulated four main arguments against the contention that Epicurus wrote the forty sayings and published them as a distinct collection.³² First, if Epicurus had wanted to distribute forty "doctrines" he would have included all of his important ideas instead of omitting (as does the collection) references to the Canon and to physical theory. Second, the sayings are not preserved in any logical order, as would be expected if Epicurus had composed them as a series to be memorized.³³ Third, some of the maxims (*Principal Doctrines* 10, 20, and 24) appear to be excerpts from personal letters rather than succinctly formulated philosophical tenets. Fourth, there is repetition and duplication of sayings within the collection.³⁴