

# **Epicureanism as the spiritual essence or 'religion' of an entire community**

**Post by “Peter Konstans” of October 15, 2023 at 2:21 PM**

Has anybody noticed that? Great news for pleasure! The legendary silphium plant from Cyrene which Epicurus must have known and possibly even tasted - thought to have gone extinct by the time of Pliny - may have resurfaced in Cappadocia, modern Turkey. There are other proposed candidates as to the identity of this ancient herbaceous rockstar but this is the best bet.

Hopefully we'll be able to get hold of some seeds in the future so we can resurrect its culinary delights. As an Epicurean I am excited about this. The intoxicatingly attractive smell of this plant would procure us a concrete sensory experience that comes to us directly from the age of Epicurus without the mediation of later centuries. It would be the pure smell of BC antiquity, capable of carrying us aloft and thrusting us though time before gently dropping us in the middle of Epicurus' garden.

Because of silphium's unique connection with the Greco-Roman world and the association of its native Cyrene with the hedonist school, I think it would be a good idea to incorporate ferula drudeana into the symbolic imagery of modern Epicureanism.

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[This miracle plant was eaten into extinction 2,000 years ago—or was it?](#)

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