

Did Epicurus Advise Marriage or Not? Diogenes Laertius Text Difficulty

Post by “Don” of January 28, 2024 at 2:24 PM

I'll have to look those articles up!! Thanks for the references.

One thing to remember in this discussion was that, Epicurean or not, women's lives were circumscribed within the general Greek culture. Look at his Will and talking about the daughter of Metrodorus:

*Let them likewise provide for the maintenance of Metrodorus's daughter,³² so long as she is well-ordered and obedient to Hermarchus; and, when she comes of age, **give her in marriage to a husband selected by Hermarchus from among the members of the School** ; and out of the revenues accruing to me let Amynomachus and Timocrates in consultation with Hermarchus give to them as much as they think proper for their maintenance year by year.*

That said, I don't get the impression that Epicurus was forbidding marriages but I can see men (and women! in the Garden) asking his counsel and advice on who they were thinking of marrying.