

# Article on the "Letter to Marcella" by Porphyry

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Thanks to Takis Panagiatopolis of the Athens Garden for this link:

[http://www.epicuros.gr/pages/en/Tempe...us\\_Porphyry.pdf](http://www.epicuros.gr/pages/en/Tempe...us_Porphyry.pdf)

! It seems clear that this writer was referencing Epicurean ideas while also combining them with elements that are absolutely irreconcilable. It is interesting to reflect on which are which.

"27. So then, first you must grasp the law of Nature and from it ascend to the divine law which also established the law of Nature."

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### A chapter of Epicurean philosophy in Porphyry's *Letter to Marcella*<sup>1</sup>

When the Neoplatonist philosopher Porphyry (ca. 234 - ca. 304/310 AD) was around 68 years old, he married Marcella, who was a widow and mother of seven children. It seems that he married her, mainly because she already used to practise some sort of philosophical activity. When he was away on a divinely sanctioned journey, Porphyry sent her a letter with exhortations, so that she could continue dealing with true philosophy and thus live an unperturbed and happy life. Interestingly enough, this letter is not fully representative of Neoplatonism as a philosophical system. Since its discovery in a codex of the Ambrosian Library in Milan in the early 19th century, Porphyry's *Letter to Marcella* (*Προφύριου φιλοσόφου Προς Μαρκέλλαν*) has been edited and/or translated at least 15 times.<sup>2</sup>

[Tempelis Epicurus Porphyry.pdf](#)