

Epicurean Tattoos

Post by “Eikadistes” of June 20, 2024 at 9:16 AM

[Quote from Remus](#)

Your post made me curious about tattoos in Ancient Greece. It seems they were taken as a sign of “Otherness.”

<https://greekreporter.com/2023/07/15/tattoos-ancient-greece/>

Indeed, **ΔΕΡΜΑΤΟΣΤΕΙΑ** seems to have been reserved as a punitive measure to identify slaves and criminals, both in ancient Greece as well as Persia (according to Herodotus, who records Greek soldiers as preferring death over being tattooed i.e. *defeated and captured by the Persians*). On the other hand, their geographical neighbors, the Thracians, Scythians, and Celts used the practice as a form of self-expression, as did/do Polynesian peoples, from whom we inherit the word "tattoo."

There are some colorful anecdotes about the battle of Thermopylae:
<https://www.actasdermo.org/es-dermatostik...578219021002456>