

To Whom Was Epicurus' Last Letter Addressed?

Post by “Eikadistes” of December 30, 2024 at 12:01 PM

In particular, "The diagnosis of [urolithiasis](#) alone does not explain the [dysentery](#). [Haemolytic uraemic syndrome](#) explains both gastrointestinal and renal symptoms leading to death, however this syndrome is almost exclusively a childhood disease, inconsistent with the clinical picture, and particularly with [strangury](#), which indicates obstruction. Apart from [lithiasis](#), causes of [urinary obstruction](#) in an elderly person of 71 years could include infection, hypertrophy or malignancy of the prostate, bladder tumour or disseminated abdominal malignancy. The philosopher's amazing productivity until his very last days points against a diagnosis of a serious and debilitating chronic disease such as disseminated malignancy. Interestingly, physicians at these times appeared to have been unaware of the existence of the [prostate](#). The diagnosis of a [prostatic disease](#) might thus have been easily missed as symptoms could easily have been attributed to [lithiasis](#). **All his three brothers had succumbed to [hydrops](#), a term used to define generalised [oedema](#), mostly secondary to [heart failure](#), but also suggestive of [chronic renal](#) or [liver disease](#).** All the fragments of evidence indicate that Epicurus had for a prolonged period of years had a balanced [urinary tract lithiasis](#) or, less possibly, [prostatic hypertrophy](#) and this underlying condition was acutely deteriorated during a [gastrointestinal infection](#)."

Nonetheless, I'm still curious to whom the letter was addressed. 😊