

Music Theory And Epicurean Philosophy

Post by “Hiram” of May 28, 2019 at 4:23 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

So it seems most likely to me that they were not campaigning against music itself, but against the idea that music can embody something (ideal forms) that don't exist. Probably this kind of view also describes what Epicurus was saying about poetry.

What Philodemus said was that PHILOSOPHY HEALS THROUGH WORDS, Logos heals the soul.

While reason (and words) is not in the canon, it has a therapeutic / healing role in the practice of philosophy itself.

The idea is that we can reason with our unlimited desires to bring them under control, and in this form of cognitive therapy I have to cite Principal Doctrine 20

<https://theautarkist.wordpress.com/2017/03/31/dio...al-doctrine-20/>

So it's not just about being anti idealism, there's a specific therapeutic utility that was being discussed in the Philodeman scroll with regards to music, and he was arguing that music could only heal the soul (through the practices of repetition and memorization, etc.) IF it contained the words of healing philosophy, which were the ones that had the potency to heal.