

# Episode 271 - TD01 - Understanding Epicurus Through Tusculan Disputations

Post by “Bryan” of March 15, 2025 at 2:05 AM

This is great, thank you both! I've got the books and will read along.

Yes it is interesting De Finibus starts with a bit of an apology for Latin, but here in T.D., Cicero is a bit more confident; also, both are addressed to Brutus.

Cicero admits Amafinius was popular. As you said Joshua, at 4.3,6 we hear that "...by the publication of his works, the crowd had its interest stirred, and flocked to the teaching he advocated in preference to any other."

So Cicero gives us a hard time on both ends by saying Amafinius' style is so bad that he is only read by *Epicureans*—but then admits *that is a large part of the population!*

The topic of Democritus' zombies is interesting, great sources for that! "Stories of people who appeared to have died and then came back to life were collected by many of the ancients including the scientist Democritus in his writings..." (Proclus, Commentary on the Republic, 2.113.6)