

Epicureanism as the spiritual essence or 'religion' of an entire community

Post by “Bryan” of March 27, 2025 at 9:27 PM

We do have evidence of Epíkouros directly praising individual people. He dedicated books to his brothers, Neoklês, Chairédēmos, and Aristóbuolos, and wrote other books where the entire topic seems to have been praise, for examples his books *Eurýlochos*, *Hēgēsíanax*, *Themísta*, and *Mētródōros*.

If said to oneself, this could be a type of self-affirmation that feels similar to a prayer:

You possess an inherited impulse toward action.
You were well brought up by your parents,
You have added to this upbringing, your own proportionate self-control.
You are strong in body, insofar as is possible for a mortal.
You have set aside discussion concerning incidental matters.
You are diligent — especially in having separated
the disturbance of all desire
from what is in accordance with nature.

— Demetrius Laco, *The Harms of Drifting Thought* (P.Herc. 831) col. 15

ΤΟ ΠΡΑΙ ΠΑΓΟΜΙΚΗ ΕΙΣ
ΚΑΙ Η ΧΘΗΣ ΤΕ ΚΑΛΩΣ ΤΟΤΗ
ΝΕΩΝ ΠΡΟΘΗΚΑΣ ΤΗ ΔΥ
ΛΗΤΑΥΤΗ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΕΞ ΕΑΥΤΟΥΣ
ΦΡΟΝΙΚΟΝ ΑΝΑΛΟΓΩΣ ΕΡΡΩ
ΣΑΙ ΤΕ ΤΩΣ ΜΑΤΙ ΕΦΟΝΕΝ
ΧΕΙΤΟΝ ΘΗΤΟΝ ΜΕΘΕΜΕ
ΝΟΣ ΤΕ ΤΩΝ ΠΕΡΙ ΤΑ ΑΤΥΧΟΥΝ
ΤΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΔΑΣΜΑΤΩΝ ΛΟΓΩΝ
ΕΙΣ ΕΛΠΟ ΕΙ ΚΕ Α
ΤΟ ΠΑΣΗΣ ΕΠΙΘΥΜΙΑΣ
ΛΕΟ ΦΥΣΚΟ
ΩΣ ΟΣΟΝ