

Did Epicurus Commit Suicide Due To His Disease? (Merger of Two Threads On When Voluntary Death Makes Sense)

Post by “Don” of May 2, 2025 at 6:07 AM

Those are fascinating articles. Thanks for sharing, [Godfrey](#) . To directly respond to:

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

Something that needed water mixed in just to be palatable as well as safe to drink?

No, I don't see any evidence of that. One thing counter to that idea I've read in the past is about the symposiarch who ran the drinking parties (symposia, literally "together-drinking") being in charge of how much water to mix in the wine as the evening progressed to regulate the level of drunkenness.

Wine was a ubiquitous beverage with a wide range of qualities and flavors. But it was, from everything I've read, all potable. Granted, we may find some products less palatable ourselves but we're spoiled from modern stabilisation and consistency.

I found this intriguing in the one article:

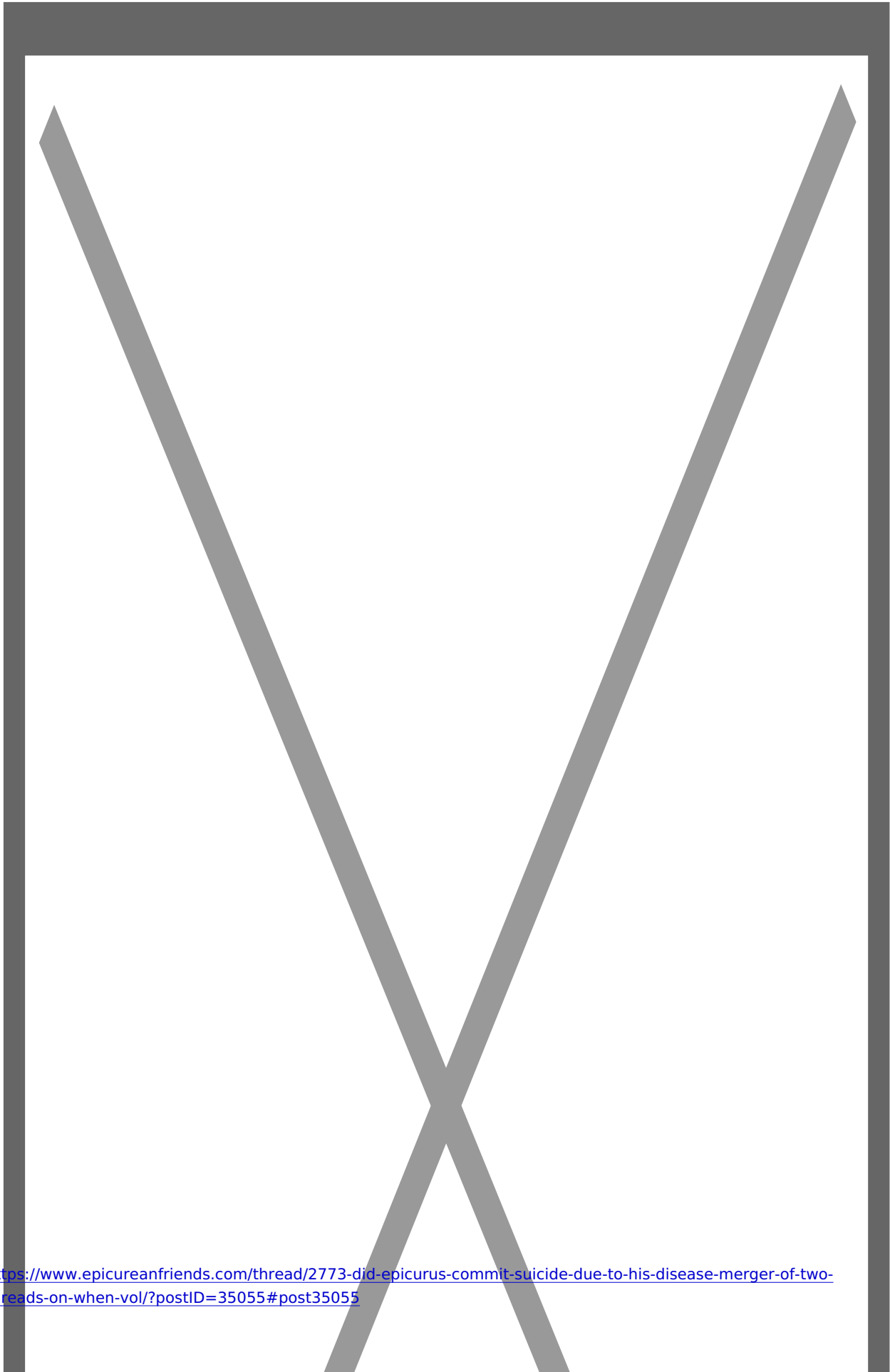
Quote

Drinking wine that was not mixed with water (ἄκρατος οἶνος) was considered barbaric. Such wine without water was used only as medicine for the sick or during travel as a tonic.

That Greek is the same word that showed up in our texts above.

For anyone curious about retsina:

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<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2773-did-epicurus-commit-suicide-due-to-his-disease-merger-of-two-threads-on-when-vol/?postID=35055#post35055>

[Retsina - Wikipedia](#)
en.wikipedia.org