

# Evaluating "In Defense of Being Average"

Post by "Hiram" of June 14, 2019 at 10:53 AM

Epicurus on mediocrity?

At least one saying speaks against "the crowd" and its opinions, and how we should be independent from them.

I think this has historical roots in Epicurus experiencing the tyranny of the Platonists at the gym in Mytilene when they exiled him under threat.

I also think of Socrates being executed after a democratic vote, which was a specter hovering over everyone in the recent history of Epicurus' time.

The crowds were perceived to be tyrannical, at least in potential. And stupid, and wrong. The study of nature was seen as the main antidote for this problem, but not everyone was expected to take it up.

And so at least for a philosopher of his day, mediocrity's dangers were mainly tied to consensus, lack of critical thinking, and lack of studying nature.