

Thoughts On Alain de Botton

Post by "Joshua" of June 29, 2019 at 1:17 PM

Quote

It started in the context of whether there were ever Epicurean communities in the ancient world outside the garden in Athens,

And what was the conclusion of that line of questioning? I had thought the evidence was quite convincing in the affirmative--namely;

1. Far-flung sources. The wall at Oenoanda in the Near East, the Villa of the Papyri in the Bay of Naples, the story of Alexander burning his scrolls in Abonuteichus.
2. The writing of letters. DeWitt cites this as a precursor to the Epistles of Saint Paul; letters sent to groups of the 'faithful' in various localities.
3. The grave markers in Latin all over the Mediterranean. Non Fui, Fui, Non Sum, Non Curo.
4. The discovery of signet rings, marble busts, etc.
5. The favor displayed to Epicureans by the Empress Plotina.
6. The curse hurled by Cicero to Calpurnius Piso; "Send [Caesar] a pamphlet!" The Epicureans often couldn't teach publicly. They were notorious pamphleteers.

This all suggests rather strongly a grass-roots movement spread over three continents, nay? How else but by community? From a sidewalk in modern Turkey to the Senate-house itself in Rome, and as far again to the west.