

# Immutability of Epicurean school in ancient times

Post by "Kalosyni" of July 29, 2025 at 8:33 AM

## [Quote from TauPhi](#)

I came across this observation from Numenius of Apamea who wrote the passage some 500 years after Epicurus and I thought it may be interesting topic for us to discuss. Epicurean school in antiquity was uniquely resistant to any change or innovation. When other schools went through distinct periods in their development - Middle Platonism, Neoplatonism, Early Stoa, Middle Stoa, 1st Academy, 2nd Academy, umpteen academy etc. - Epicureanism had never developed. No new ideas were introduced, nothing was really questioned or corrected, there were around 10 scholars in succession that we know of who run the school and yet no-one really deviated or influenced in any significant way the teachings of the school.

Both Cassius and Joshua have given very good posts above to address this critique of the Epicurean school, given by the Platonist Numenius.

It is actually a indication of the strength of the school that it didn't shift in it's basic tenets.

Just because we don't have anyone labeling any different time periods, doesn't mean that there weren't some subtle differences over time.

I would venture to say that there could likely be seen some differences between the "Early Epicureans" and the "Philodemus Epicureans" - a stronger emphasis on physics and canonic in the early time vs. a stronger emphasis on ethics by Philodemus. Perhaps [Bryan](#) might have something to say?