

The Archaic Smile

Post by “Adrastus” of October 9, 2025 at 5:38 AM

I was wondering if there was any connection between Diogenes of Oinoanda believing we ought to depict the Gods as smiling, with the [Archaic Smile](#).

I vaguely remember reading some scholarship that perhaps Epicurean Philosophy was a kind of pre-Socratic resurgence though I admit that I am not sure where I picked up that idea, and I remember reading in Bernard Frischer's book *The Sculpted Word* where Fischer paints a picture of Epicurean Philosophy not concerned with returning the world to some bygone Golden Age, but living in the present as if one were in the past Golden Age. I admit to not knowing much about the greater expanses of Greek history, but was curious if a more learned scholar here could speak to this sort of idea and if the idea of smiling statuary for Diogenes has anything to do with some kind of aesthetic sign from Greece in the Archaic age.

Thanks for any insights or commentary.