

Italian Artwork With Representtions of Epicurus

Post by "Cassius" of November 7, 2025 at 12:19 PM

Lots of good information in that article, which I don't remember seeing before -- it's apparently from 2024.

I'd say it's a generally very good presentation and to repeat contains lots of good citations. I particular appreciate the references to the author of Quo Vadis.

But after reading through it quickly I'd say it has the flaw of giving the impression that Epicurus was focused on a general subtraction of bodily pleasures rather than the addition of mental pleasures to those bodily pleasures that do not cause more harm than good.

Of the common threads of analysis of Epicurus for 2000 years it seems that most either veer off into (1) asceticism (the implication of this article) or (2) into saying that he was a reprobate obsessed with sensual pleasure (more the focus of Plutarch, and much also of Cicero).

I don't get the impression that for example Emily Austin's book veers off into either extreme, so hopefully things will get better.