

# Where Is Epicurus In The "School of Athens"?

Post by "Cassius" of August 5, 2020 at 8:42 PM

[michelepinto](#) -

In a more recent thread [Joshua and I took a sidetrack](#) and Joshua expressed his opinion that he felt differently than Elli on this question, and that he thought the figure identified as "2" in Elli's graphic above, as is often stated (perhaps on the wikipedia page too).

I don't think you were communicating with us regularly when this debate started, and in fact I see the original post is so old that some of the graphics have now disappeared. I am not sure I can reconstruct those but I will see what I can do.

But my reason for posting this is: I think this is a very interesting debate, and I wonder if you have an opinion not only on the main question but on:

(1) Do you think knowledge of Epicurus' true appearance was ever COMPLETELY lost to the world?

(2) Do you know anything about the history of what he was thought to have looked like, and when that became solidified?

I think I have read that there was a discovery at Herculaneum of a bust that had his name etched on it, so at that point any debate would have ceased. However it is also my impression that there are MANY surviving busts of Epicurus, along with rings, and I find it very difficult to believe personally that NO ONE in the world retained an accurate tradition.

And of course that gets us back to the question - Even if we presume that some people some places knew that Epicurus was not bald and pudgy, what do we know (if anything) about Raphael's connection to that knowledge, or his own description of who these characters are supposed to represent.

If you have any insight, or know anyone we could ask, that would be greatly appreciated!