

Partial List of References to Epicurus in Cicero

Post by “Cassius” of October 29, 2019 at 8:57 AM

Epicurean Philosophy in Cicero’s De Republica: Serious Threat or Convenient Foil?

Epicurean view that one should not take part in politics⁵, and in Book 6 the work ends with the *Dream of Scipio*, the final lines of which describe the sad fate of the souls of Epicureans after death.

Cicero composed the *De republica* between 54 and 51 BCE, three years after he returned from exile during a busy period of his life. A number of other works he wrote between his exile and the time he finished the *De republica* mention or allude to Epicureanism, including the *Post Reditum in Senatu* (14-16), *Pro Sestio* (21-25), *Pro Caelio* (40-41), *In Pisonem* (in many sections, including 20, 37, 42-44, 56-61, and 68-72), and *De Oratore* (3. 62-64). A number of scholars had argued that Cicero, even though he mentions Epicureanism in these and other works, did not become seriously hostile towards Epicureanism until the philosophical works he wrote in 45-43, but several scholars⁶ have shown that Cicero’s comments on Epicureanism in his works before the *De republica* are more negative than others previously thought.

This is from an article by Walter Englert [here](#)