

Phaedrus - General Info

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Phaedrus the Epicurean From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Phaedrus (/ˈfiːdrəs, ˈfɛdrəs/; Greek: Φαῖδρος; 138 – 70/69 [BC](#)^[1]) was an [Epicurean](#) philosopher. He was the head (*scholarch*) of the Epicurean school in [Athens](#) after the death of [Zeno of Sidon](#) around 75 BC, until his own death in 70 or 69 BC. He was a contemporary of [Cicero](#), who became acquainted with him in his youth at [Rome](#).^[2] During his residence in Athens (80 BC) Cicero renewed his acquaintance with him. Phaedrus was at that time an old man, and was already a leading figure of the Epicurean school.^[3] He was also on terms of friendship with Velleius, whom Cicero introduces as the defender of the Epicurean tenets in the *[De Natura Deorum](#)*,^[4] and especially with [Atticus](#).^[5] Cicero especially praises his agreeable manners. He had a son named Lysiadas. Phaedrus was succeeded by [Patro](#).

Cicero wrote to Atticus requesting Phaedrus' essay *On gods* (Greek: Περὶ θεῶν).^[6] Cicero used this work to aid his composition of the first book of the *De Natura Deorum*. Not only did he develop his account of Epicurean doctrine using it, but also the account of the doctrines of earlier philosophers.