

Colotes - Main Biography

Post by "Cassius" of November 20, 2023 at 3:06 PM

Colotes and Idomeneus of Lampsacus - "Also Colotes and Idomeneus, both of Lampsacus. They too were distinguished." [Diogenes Laertius 25]

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Colotes of Lampsacus (**Greek**: Κολώτης Λαμψακηνός, *Kolōtēs Lampsakēnos*; c. 320 – after 268 BC)^[1] was a pupil of [Epicurus](#). He wrote a work to prove "That it is impossible even to live according to the doctrines of the other philosophers" (ὅτι κατὰ τὰ τῶν ἄλλων φιλοσόφων δόγματα οὐδὲ ζῆν ἔστιν) and dedicated it to [Ptolemy II Philadelphus](#). Although this work is lost, its arguments are preserved in two works written by [Plutarch](#) in refutation of it: "That it is impossible even to live pleasantly according to Epicurus", and *Against Colotes*.^[2] According to Plutarch, Colotes attacked [Socrates](#) and other great philosophers in this work. Some fragments of two other works of Colotes have been discovered at the [Villa of the Papyri](#) at [Herculaneum](#): *Against Plato's Lysis*,^[3] and *Against Plato's Euthydemus*.^[4] According to Plutarch, Colotes, upon hearing Epicurus discourse on the nature of things, fell on his knees before him, and besought Epicurus to give him instruction. Plutarch claims that Colotes was a great favorite with Epicurus, who used, by way of endearment, to call him Κολωτάρας and Κολωτάριος. [Cicero](#) also recounts that Colotes held that it is unworthy of the truthfulness of a philosopher to use fables in his teaching, a notion which Cicero opposes.^[5]

1. [^] [Dorandi 1999](#), p. 51.
2. [^] Plutarch, *Essays and Miscellanies*: "That it is impossible even to live pleasantly according to Epicurus"; "Against Colotes".
3. [^] PHerc. 208
4. [^] PHerc. 1032
5. [^] Cicero, *On The Commonwealth*, vi. 7.

Colotes van Lampsacus

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Colotes van Lampsacus (**Oudgrieks** : Κολώτης / Kolōtēs) was a student of [Epicurus](#) .

In several works he defended his master's teachings, sometimes fiercely attacking older philosophers - such as [Socrates](#) .^[1] He was most likely a teacher of [Menedemus of Lampsacus](#) , which seems to be confirmed by two discussions between him and Menedemus about poetry preserved on papyri from the [Villa dei papiri in Herculaneum](#) .^[2]