

# Diogenes of Oinoanda - Main Biography

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[Wikipedia](#): Diogenes of Oenoanda ([Greek](#): Διογένης ὁ Οἰνοανδεύς) was an [Epicurean Greek](#) from the 2nd century AD who carved a summary of the philosophy of [Epicurus](#) onto a [portico](#) wall in the ancient Greek city of [Oenoanda](#) in [Lycia](#) (modern day southwest [Turkey](#)). The surviving fragments of the wall, originally extended about 80 meters, form an important source of Epicurean philosophy. The inscription, written in Greek, sets out [Epicurus'](#) teachings on [physics](#), [epistemology](#), and [ethics](#). It was originally about 25,000 words long and filled 260 square meters of wall space. Less than a third of it has been recovered.

Life

Nothing is known about the life of Diogenes apart from the limited information he reveals to us. The inscription itself, which had been dated to the late 2nd century,<sup>[1]</sup> has now been assigned on [epigraphic](#) grounds to the [Hadrianic](#) period, 117–138 AD.<sup>[2]</sup> Diogenes was wealthy enough to acquire a large tract of land in the city of [Oenoanda](#) to construct (or possibly buy) a [piazza](#) to display his inscription. As a man who had found peace by practicing the doctrines of [Epicurus](#), he tells us that in his old age he was motivated "to help also those who come after us" and "to place therefore the remedies of salvation by means of this porch."<sup>[3]</sup>