

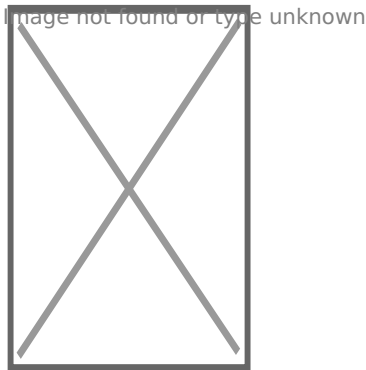
# Ancient Greek/Roman Customs, Culture, and Clothing

Post by “Kalosyni” of June 3, 2022 at 9:03 AM

This thread is for Epicureans in ancient Greece and Rome, focusing on historical events, culture, clothing, and lifestyle (Edit note: 02/21/25 - moved earlier posts into this new thread).

\*\*\*\*

I found this book "The Invention and Gendering of Epicurus" (when Googling "Epicureans and effeminancy") which looks like it could shed some light on the culture of Epicureans. Though tracking down a library copy might be a bit difficult, unless anyone lives near a good university library.



[The Invention and Gendering of Epicurus](#)

The school of Greek philosopher Epicurus, which became known as the Garden, famously put great stock in happiness and pleasure. As a philosophical community,...

[www.press.umich.edu](http://www.press.umich.edu)

Quote

## Description

The school of Greek philosopher Epicurus, which became known as the Garden, famously put great stock in happiness and pleasure. As a philosophical community, and a way of seeing the world, Epicureanism had a centuries-long life in Athens and Rome, as well as across the Mediterranean.

The Invention and Gendering of Epicurus studies how the Garden's outlook on pleasure captured Greek and Roman imaginations—particularly among non-Epicureans—for generations after its legendary founding. Unsympathetic sources from disparate eras generally focus not on historic personages but on the symbolic Epicurean. And yet the

traditions of this imagined Garden, with its disreputable women and unmanly men, give us intermittent glimpses of historical Epicureans and their conceptions of the Epicurean life.

Pamela Gordon suggests how a close hearing and contextualization of anti-Epicurean discourse leads us to a better understanding of the cultural history of Epicureanism. Her primary focus is on sources hostile to the Garden, but her Epicurean-friendly perspective is apparent throughout. Her engagement with ancient anti-Epicurean texts makes more palpable their impact on modern responses to the Garden.

Intended both for students and for scholars of Epicureanism and its response, the volume is organized primarily according to the themes common among Epicurus' detractors. It considers the place of women in Epicurean circles, as well as the role of Epicurean philosophy in Homer and other writers.

**Pamela Gordon** is Chair of the Department of Classics at the University of Kansas and the author of *Epicurus in Lycia: The Second-Century World of Diogenes of Oenoanda*.

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## Post by “Kalosyni” of June 5, 2022 at 3:06 PM

Ancient Greek clothing / Ancient Roman clothing, if anyone is interested.

An idea -- that it could be fun at some point to dress up for the 20th celebration, as a way to make it more festive. And I could help anyone with getting their costume together.

For ancient Greek clothing:[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clothing\\_in\\_ancient\\_Greece](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clothing_in_ancient_Greece)

[Basic Greek Clothing \(male\) - The Hoplite Association](#)

Bringing The Ancient Greek World To Life

[www.hoplites.org](http://www.hoplites.org)

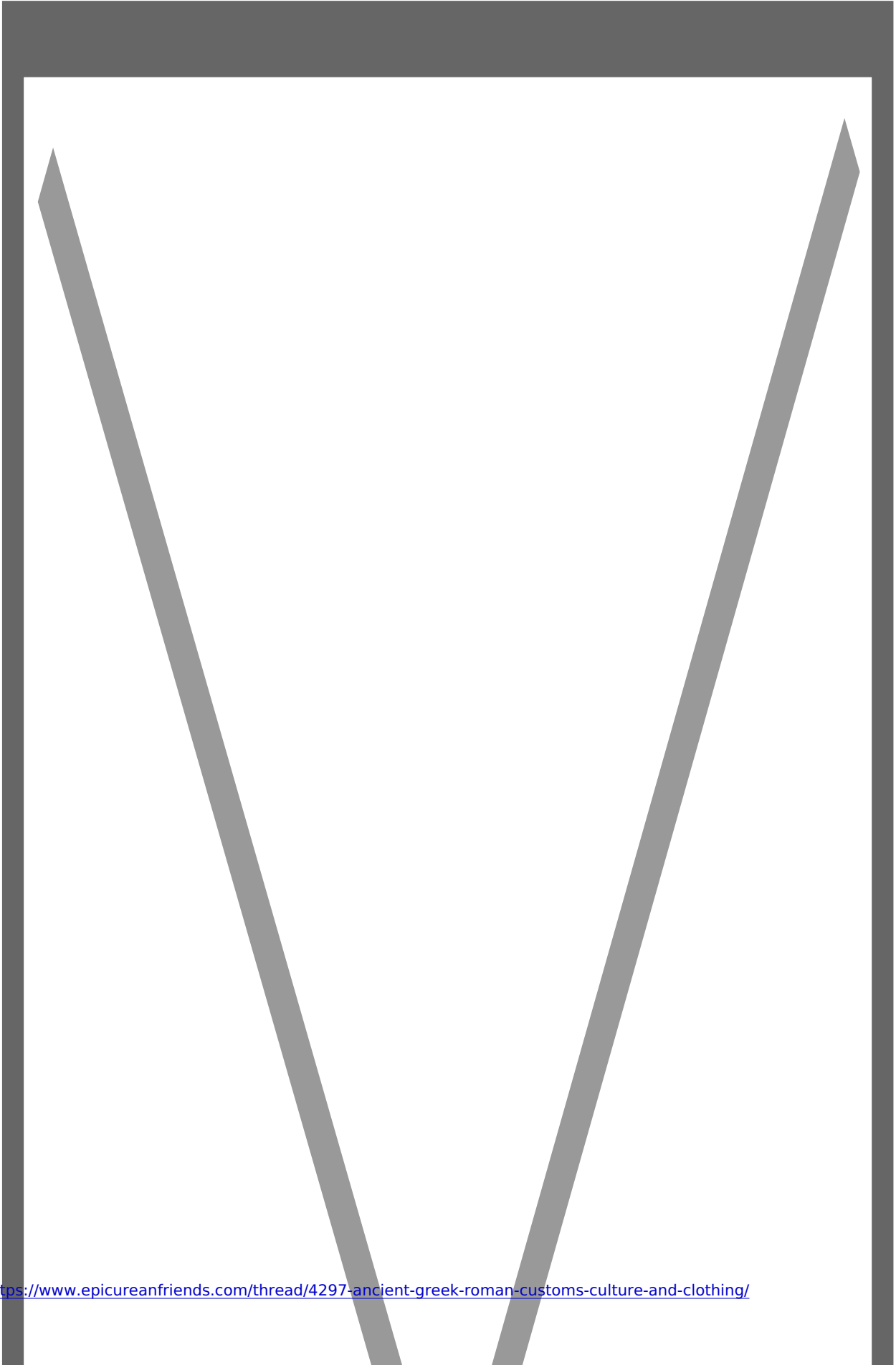
[Basic Greek Clothing \(female\) - The Hoplite Association](#)

Bringing The Ancient Greek World To Life

[www.hoplites.org](http://www.hoplites.org)

And for ancient Roman clothing:

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[Clothing in ancient Rome - Wikipedia](#)

[en.m.wikipedia.org](https://en.m.wikipedia.org)

[Ancient Roman Clothing | UNRV](#)

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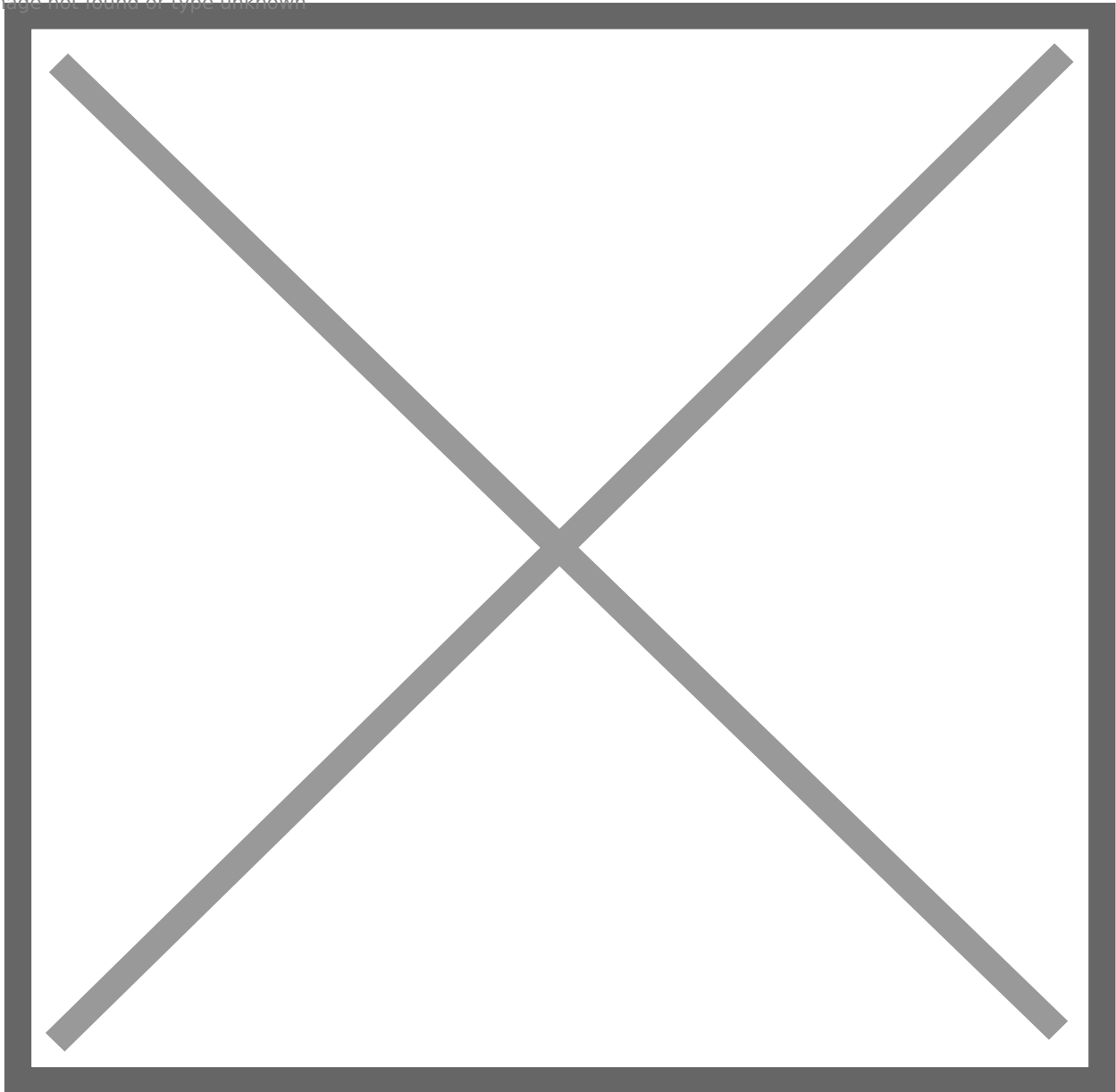
## **Post by “Kalosyni” of July 21, 2022 at 5:28 AM**

I thought this was an interesting read, about the differences between Greek and Roman clothing:

### Quote

“Now wait a minute,” you might say. “How is the enkyklon different from a toga?” After all, a flat bedsheet is the fabric of choice for many attending toga parties in movies. The primary difference between togas and enkykla lies in the shape. While enkykla were rectangular, togas were semicircular, which is what gave them the wonderful drape and folds you can see on the stone versions worn by ancient statues.

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### [The Truth About Togas](#)

To many people, togas are synonymous with ancient Greece. The only problem? Togas aren't Greek.

[pieceworkmagazine.com](http://pieceworkmagazine.com)

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**Post by "Don" of July 21, 2022 at 7:09 AM**

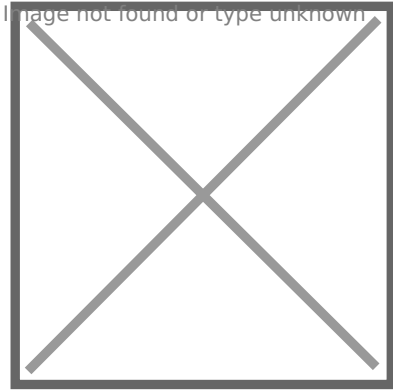
<https://youtu.be/0EyStjkII-Y>

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4297-ancient-greek-roman-customs-culture-and-clothing/>

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## Post by “Don” of July 21, 2022 at 7:13 AM

For anyone who REALLY wants to get into the weeds...



[Greek and Roman Textiles and Dress](#)

Greek and Roman Textiles and Dress

[www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu)

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## Post by “Kalosyni” of August 18, 2022 at 7:47 PM

This shows how vibrantly Greek statues were originally painted:

Quote

Ancient Greek and Roman sculpture was once colorful, vibrantly painted and richly adorned with detailed ornamentation. *Chroma: Ancient Sculpture in Color* reveals the colorful backstory of polychromy—meaning “many colors,” in Greek—and presents new discoveries of surviving ancient color on artworks in The Met’s world-class collection. Exploring the practices and materials used in ancient polychromy, the exhibition highlights cutting-edge scientific methods used to identify ancient color and examines how color helped convey meaning in antiquity, and how ancient polychromy has been viewed and understood in later periods.

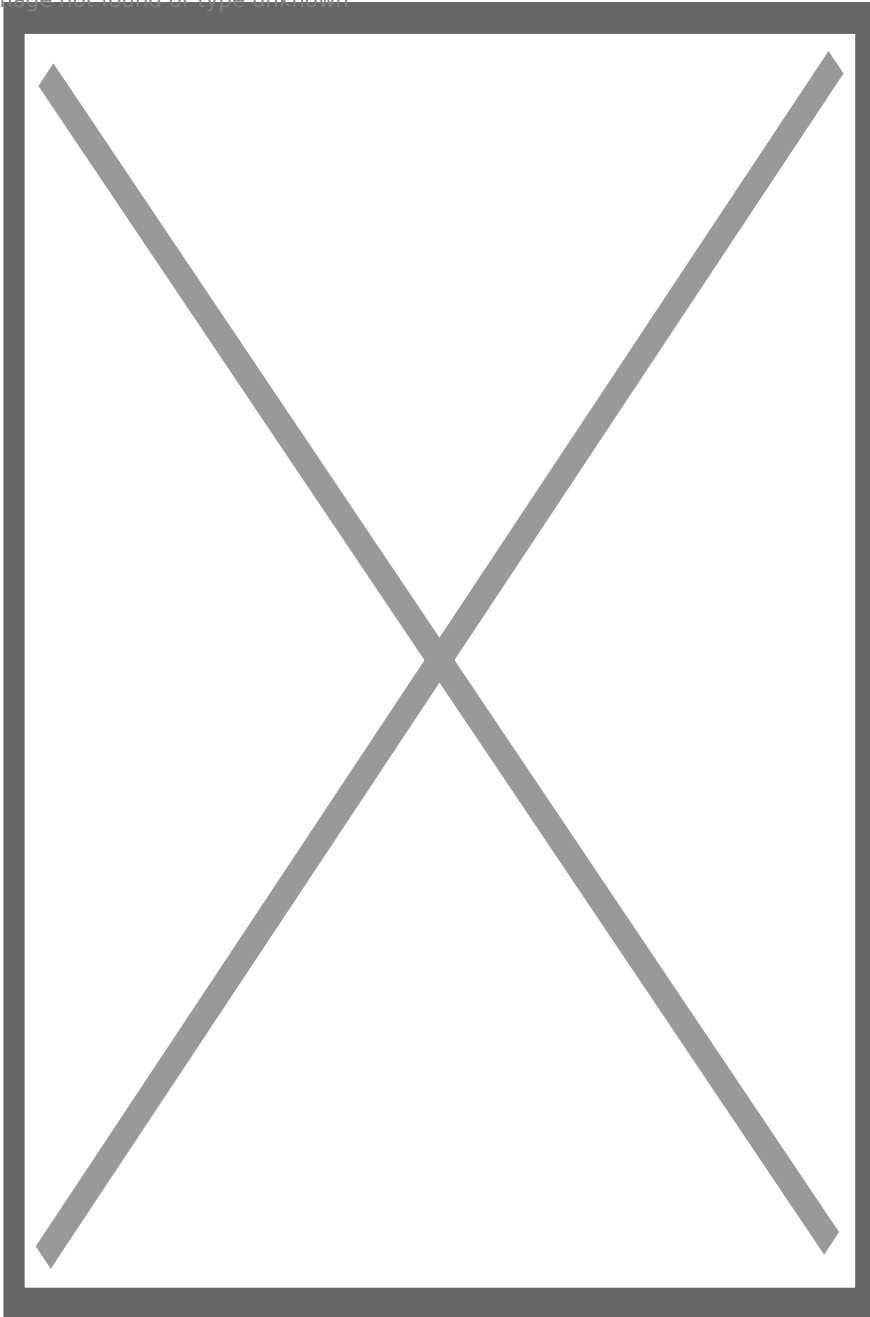
<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2022/chroma>

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## Post by “Don” of August 18, 2022 at 8:49 PM

Donna Zuckerberg's book delves into the implications of the bleached white statues that came down from antiquity:

Image not found or type unknown



[Not All Dead White Men — Donna Zuckerberg](#)

Some of the most controversial and consequential debates about the legacy of the ancients are raging not in universities but online, where Alt-Right men's...

**Post by “Kalosyni” of August 21, 2022 at 8:21 PM**

Mythology --The Three Graces --- daughters of Zeus and Eurynome:

"It is traditional to offer them the first draught of wine at a gathering to invoke their blessing and aid."



#### Quote

The Three Graces are (most consistently named), from youngest to oldest, Aglaia, Euphrosyne, and Thalia (2, 12). Roman mythology depicts these Goddesses as The Graces (The Gratiae), having been previously referred to as the Charities (Kharites) in Greek mythology. In the Roman custom, in addition to their other benefits, The Gratiae signify gratitude (as in gratia), as well as benevolence (9), and according to [Seneca](#), each of the three Goddesses is linked in a chain to causality, which pertains to the divine manifestation of Grace, and as related to their differing ages (15).

- Aglaia - the eldest, (literal: splendor, beautiful, bright) (4), beauty, nature, amusement; sometimes wife of Hephaestus (14), divine artistry; “The Grace symbolizing beauty (9).”
- Euphrosyne - (literal; mirth, merriment, cheerful, or a good mind) (5), good cheer, joy, and being well. “The Grace incarnate of delight (9).”
- Thalia - (literal; luxuriant, blooming) (6), plentiful, rich, festivity. “The Grace of blossoming (9).”

#### Quote

“It is traditional to offer them the first draught of wine at a gathering to invoke their blessing and aid.”

— 365 Goddess

## The Graces vs The Muses vs. The Fates

The Graces are most principle in relationship to Venus (15) appearing as handmaidens within her extended entourage, and spending much time at the Goddess's sanctuary at Cypress. It was in this temple of refuge where Venus was maintained in health and comfort, regularly bathed in the divinely anointed oils of The Gratiae, and where for example, the Goddess was presented with a magnificent immortal robe (10). Eros and The Muses (8) were frequent companions of The Graces as well, and they all loved to spend time together, dancing around in a circle to the music of Apollo (8). Another of their colleagues, the Goddess Dike (one of The Hours), often attended The Graces, and particularly in matters of peace and justice (1).

The individual identities of the nine Muses are often intermingled with the three Graces as the two groups sometimes overlap in benefit. However, The Graces and The Muses dwell from slightly different origins. All of the Goddesses share a parent Zeus, though, in some Roman lore, The Graces are instead, fathered by Bacchus. Eurynome an Oceanid - daughter of Oceanus (God of the Sea) and Tethys (fresh water), (an incestuous Titanian brother/sister marital couple), is their mother (14).

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/The-Gratiae-Goddesses>

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### Post by “Don” of August 21, 2022 at 8:57 PM

Thought you might be interested in this:

<https://www.theoi.com/Ouranios/Kharites.html>

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## Post by “Kalosyni” of January 15, 2023 at 1:30 PM

Regarding the good attributes and ancient Greek events and festivals during the month of Gamelion -- the month in which Epicurus was born (which coincides with the modern calendar months of January/February).

"...*Gamelion*... is the month of the Halcyon Days, days of warm sun and calm seas, *Alkionides Meres*, as the Greeks call them, which appear in mid January. These glorious Halcyon days of the month of Gamelion, also played a role in the reason certain dates were chosen for so many ancient Greek feasts, festivals and theatre, which were always held outdoors."

**Edit Note:** After the initial posting of this, I further researched about "halcyon days" and I am finding mixed references to the exact times.

### Quote

Gamelion; the month of marriage, was the seventh month of the Attic calendar of ancient Greece which coincides with the modern day month of February.

The word derives from the Greek *γαμηλίᾱ* (*gamēlíā*), meaning “wedding feast”, as it was the most popular month for weddings;

(γάμος - *gámos* - wedding in greek).

### **Gamelion:**

#### **A month of marriages and festivals**

Not by chance was the ancient Greek month *Gamelion* the “Wedding-Month” a month for love, lust, weddings and festivals.

Ancient Greeks generally married in winter, in honour of the goddess of marriage, [Hera \(Juno\) Greek Goddess of Women, Marriage, Childbirth, Children and Family](#), a time when, throughout the month, special sacrifices were made to the goddess.

As the ancient Greek wedding consisted of a three part ceremony which lasted for three days, held outdoors and usually at night, the weather had to be taken into consideration.

*Gamelion*, then, was the perfect month, as this is the month of the [Halcyon Days](#), days of warm sun and calm seas, *Alkionides Meres*, as the Greeks call them, which appear in mid January.

These glorious Halcyon days of the month of Gamelion, also played a role in the reason certain dates were chosen for so many ancient Greek feasts, festivals and theatre, which were always held outdoors.

### **The sacred Marriage**

Another reason the month of *Gamelion* is the month of marriages, is to commemorate the sacred Marriage, or Hieros gamos or *Hierogamy*, of Goddess Hera and Zeus; king of Greek gods.

The wedding took place, with much pomp and glory, in the Garden of Hesperides, where Gaia, Mother Earth, overcome with happiness, caused a tree to bloom with golden apples and was watched over by [the dreaded fates \(The Moirai\) of ancient Greece](#), who were probably comparing notes with each other and deciding the destiny of this sacred coupling!

The wedding between Hera and Zeus was followed by a three hundred year honeymoon.

The *Theogamia* or *Hieros Gamos*, a sexual ritual, or fertility rite, which performs a marriage between a god and a goddess, an annual festival celebrating the marriage of the gods Zeus and Hera, a sort of wedding anniversary, took place in the temple of Hera in honor of the goddess as protector of Marriage.

The wedding of Zeus and Hera was celebrated at the Heraion of Samos.

Display More

[Read more about this at the Article Source](#)

Also during Gamelion was the

[Lenaia festival](#).From Wikipedia

: "The festival was in honour of [Dionysus Lenaios](#).<sup>[1]</sup> There is also evidence the festival also took place in [Delphi](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

The term *Lenaia* probably comes from "*lenos*" 'wine-press' or from "*lenai*", another name for the [Maenads](#) (the female worshippers of Dionysus)."

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**Post by “Kalosyni” of June 11, 2023 at 12:29 PM**

This is an interesting read about symposiums and courtesans in ancient Greece:

[Hetairai: Greek Courtesans](#)

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## Post by “Kalosyni” of July 17, 2023 at 8:20 PM

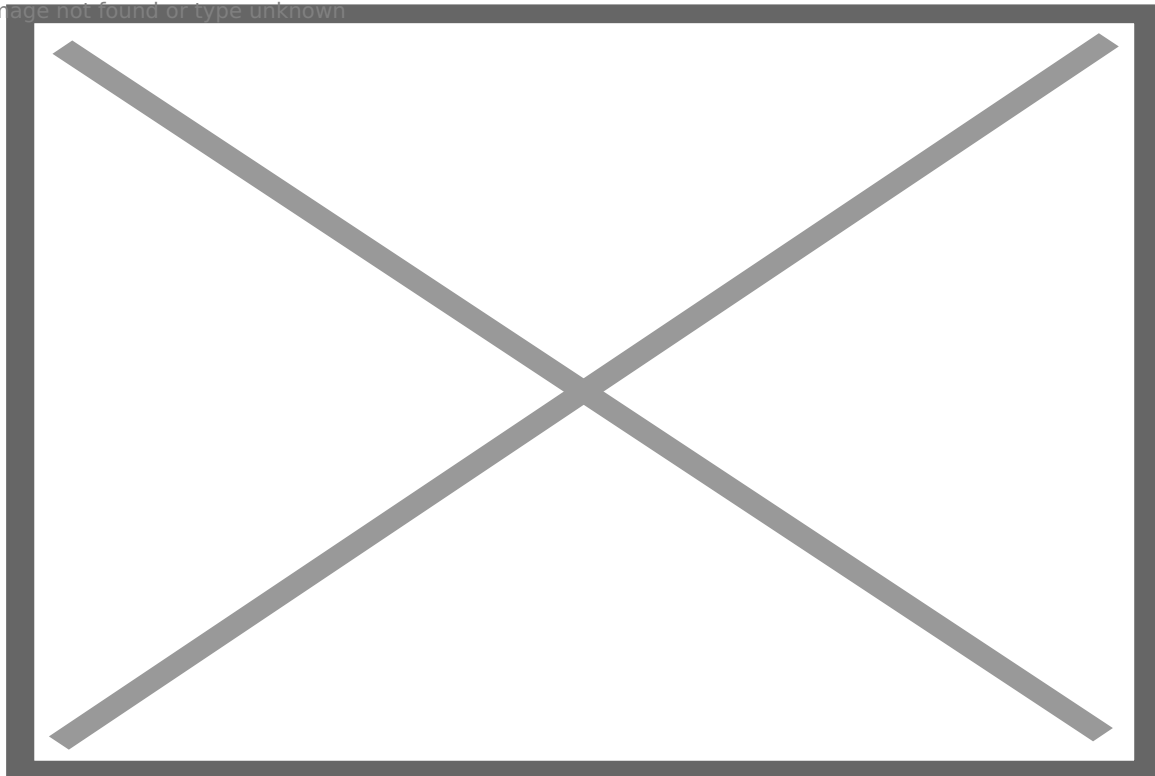
All about the Panhellenic Games of Ancient Greece

This table is from a [Wikipedia article](#):

Games	Deity Honored	Location	Prize	Frequency
<a href="#">Olympic Games</a>	<a href="#">Zeus</a>	<a href="#">Olympia, Elis</a>	Olive wreath ( <a href="#">Kotinos</a> )	Every 4 years (marked the start of year 1 of an <a href="#">Olympiad</a> )
<a href="#">Pythian Games</a>	<a href="#">Apollo</a>	<a href="#">Delphi</a>	<a href="#">Laurel wreath</a>	Every 4 years (2 years after the <a href="#">Olympic Games</a> ; Olympiad year 3)
<a href="#">Nemean Games</a>	<a href="#">Zeus, Heracles</a>	<a href="#">Nemea, Corinthia</a>	<a href="#">Wild celery</a>	Every 2 years (year before and after the Olympic Games; Olympiad years 2 and 4)
<a href="#">Isthmian Games</a>	<a href="#">Poseidon</a>	<a href="#">Isthmia, Sicyon</a>	<a href="#">Pine</a>	Every 2 years (same year as the Nemean Games, different time of year)

This is also a good article:

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### [The Panhellenic Games of Ancient Greece](#)

The Panhellenic Games in Ancient Greece included the Olympic Games, the Pythian Games, the Isthmian Games and the Nemean Games. The Sacred Games were religious  
greektraveltellers.com

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### **Post by “Joshua” of July 17, 2023 at 8:28 PM**

That is one of the many things I learned spending too much time playing video games!

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### **Post by “Joshua” of July 17, 2023 at 8:45 PM**

There's an old rumor, by the way, that some of the Russian athletes were two weeks late to the 1908 Olympics because they were still using the Julian calendar and most of Europe was using the modern Gregorian calendar.

Both calendars are named after the potentates who instituted them, but of course it was the astronomers of each age who actually designed them--the Gregorian calendar by 16th century Italian astronomer and philosopher named Luigi Lilio, and the Julian calendar by the scholars at the Library and Museum of Alexandria.

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### **Post by “Kalosyni” of July 18, 2023 at 12:15 PM**

[Joshua](#) now that the ancient Athenian new year is here, can we guess when and which games would soon be starting?

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### **Post by “Joshua” of July 18, 2023 at 1:03 PM**

This being the third year of the Olympiad, the Pythian games would have commenced with the first full moon of the New Year, which will be August 1st. However, since the calendar is lunisolar, and the moon cycle changes relative to the solstice, there is some debate as to whether they would push it back another moon to wait out the harvest. Wikipedia says the games would occur in late August, which would coincide with the second full moon this year. Difficult to say--the Athenians would add an extra month every so often to bring the months back in line with the seasons.

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### **Post by “Joshua” of July 18, 2023 at 1:08 PM**

This Attic month (Hekatombaion) also includes the annual festival of the [Panathenaea](#), which [Don](#) mentioned in his [Video](#) on the location of the Garden outside the walls of ancient Athens.

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### **Post by “Joshua” of July 18, 2023 at 1:10 PM**

You can look at the dates for that festival on the calendar at;

## [Calendar – Hellenion](#)

It will occur in August on our calendar.

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### **Post by “Kalosyni” of October 30, 2023 at 4:00 PM**

#### Quote

During the [Archaic](#) period, Greek men wore a long chiton; thereafter, except for charioteers, priests, and the elderly, they wore a knee-length version. Sleeved chitons were worn by actors and priests. Patterns and colours varied with the times and with the status of the wearer.

#### Quote

**himation**, [mantle](#) or wrap worn by Greek men and women from the [Archaic](#) through the [Hellenistic](#) periods (c. 750–30 bce). A very large rectangle of fabric, the himation was draped in different ways—e.g., as a [shawl](#), a cloak, or a head covering—during various periods.

Usually made of white wool, the version worn by women could be of coloured silk or cotton. A somewhat shorter Greek wrap was known as a *chlamys*.

From my reading...It seems that women sometimes wore three layers and men wore one or two layers of fabric.

[source](#)

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### **Post by “Kalosyni” of October 30, 2023 at 7:39 PM**

I am still mulling over what Epicurus might have worn. Would Epicurus have worn something that conveyed the image of status and wealth? I personally would think that he would have worn something more plain (but perhaps there were festival days in which a finer weave of cloth was worn).

I found an article "What Did Jesus Wear" which also talks about ancient Greek clothing, and you can see a picture of a sculpture of Demosthenes, which gives some insight into possible clothing of Epicurus.

And so of course this would have been a little later than Epicurus:

#### Quote

Much is now known about clothing in 1st and 2nd century Judaea, because many fragments of the tunics worn by people then have been found in caves and tombs bordering the Dead Sea, where the dry climate has allowed their preservation. For example, picture 6 shows a tunic recovered from the Cave of Letters, a burial site near the Dead Sea. From the archaeological remains, and from comparable art from Egyptian mummy portraits, Pompeii and elsewhere, we can visualise what people wore. It is clear that Judaeans were part of the Mediterranean world and dressed much like everyone else.

An ordinary man in Jesus' world would wear a short tunic, called a chiton, in Greek (in Latin a tunica) and a woman would wear an ankle-length one.

The long version, the stole, in Greek (or stola in Latin), was understood to be women's clothing, when not worn by high-status men. A higher hemline indicated masculine wear.

Display More

#### Quote

The long, rough mantle of some philosophers (worn without a tunic underneath) could be called a tribon - literally a 'worn thing', or even a 'rag' - or a peribolaion, a 'wrap'. Their garment, if a long diploida, a 'double' piece of cloth, was distinguished by quality from the expensive type of wrap the gods would wear. These were generally worn wrapped around the middle

of the body under the armpits and then slung over the left shoulder, as we see in the sculpture of Demosthenes.

Display More

Regarding the Mediterranean (but not specifically Athens):

Quote

Colourful clothes, like long garments, were associated with women's attire. ...However, one cannot be too absolute in an association between colour and women's wear. In Pompeian frescoes, both men and women are shown with coloured tunics and mantles, even though the men are also dressed in white or undyed tunics. Tough guys might choose to eschew colour, but it was always a choice, and not a rule. One factor that could easily offset a manly preference for undyed or white clothing was the concern to show riches and status.

Clothing found in Masada and the caves by the Dead Sea is often highly coloured: bright shades of red, yellow, orange, blue, green, and types of purple, including bold, striped cloth for blankets and rugs. In visualising clothes in Jesus' time, these remains ask us to imagine people wearing a kaleidoscope of hues. The question then is whether dyed clothes mainly belonged to women? Or did these clothes sometimes belong to wealthy men who wished to show they could afford expensive dyes,...

Display More

<https://christianevidence.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/What-Did-Jesus-Wear.pdf>

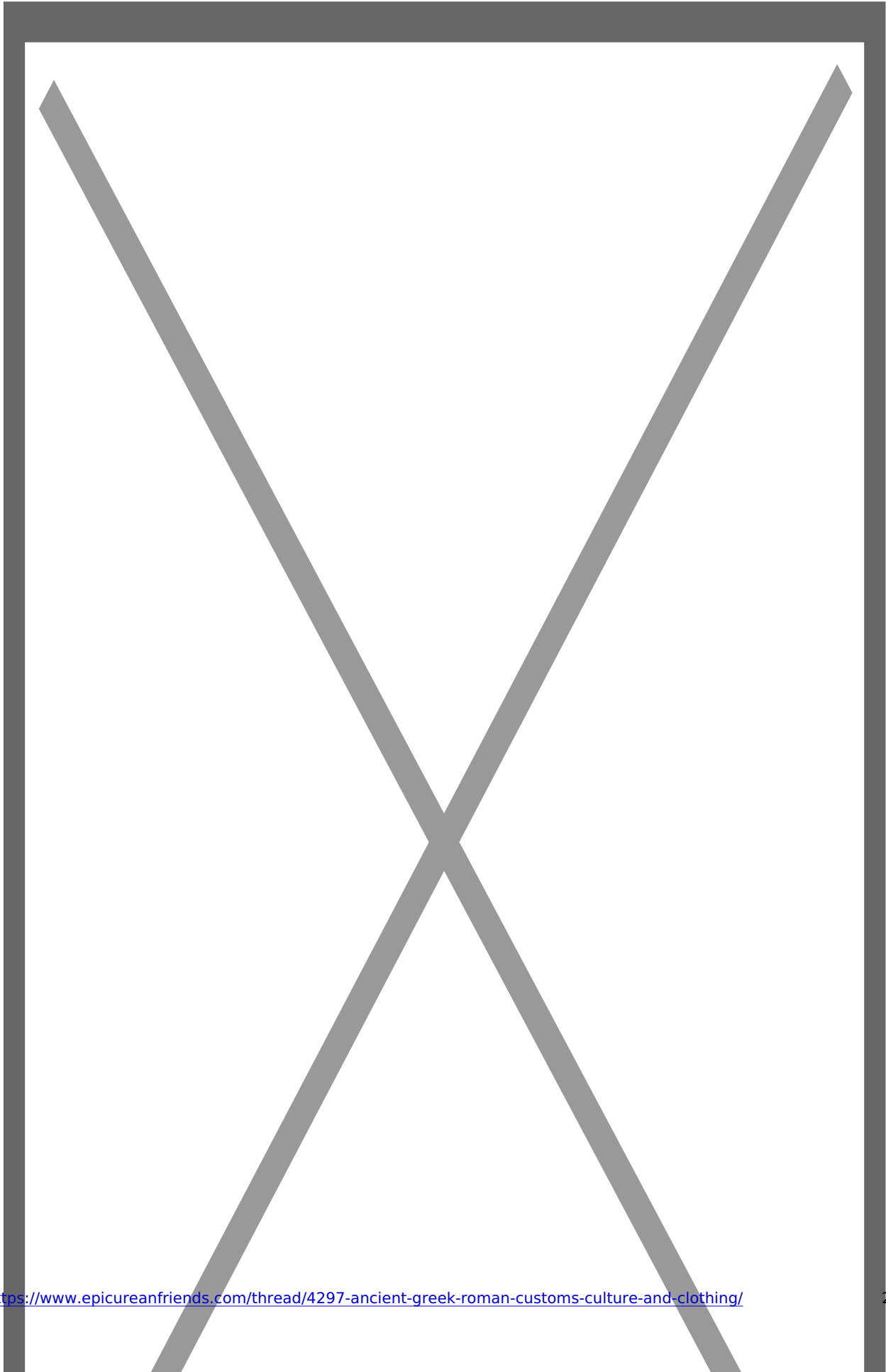
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**Post by "Joshua" of October 30, 2023 at 7:58 PM**

The idealized garb of philosophers among the Greeks was taken from the symbols of Cynicism: a cloak to keep off the elements, a bag or purse to hold all of one's worldly possessions, and a staff for walking. The staff and purse are shown on the Boscoreale treasure's philosophy cup. No cloak was necessary here--all of the figures on the cup are skeletons, underlining the link between philosophy and death.

But Epicurus was not a Cynic. He also didn't hold forth publicly in the regimented world of the gymnasiarchs. Presumably he wore what was handy, some of it purchased and some, perhaps, gifted.

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[Plato's Academy mosaic - Wikipedia](#)

en.m.wikipedia.org

This mosaic from Herculaneum is thought to depict Greek philosophers as Romans would have imagined them.

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### **Post by “Joshua” of May 30, 2024 at 1:26 PM**

I am part way through *Heroes*, the second volume of Stephen Fry's [Mythos](#) series, and can heartily recommend them as a good reintroduction to Greek mythology. The audiobooks, read by Fry himself, are especially pleasant. The work is narrative and not scholarly, but the stories are good and the author is passionate about them.

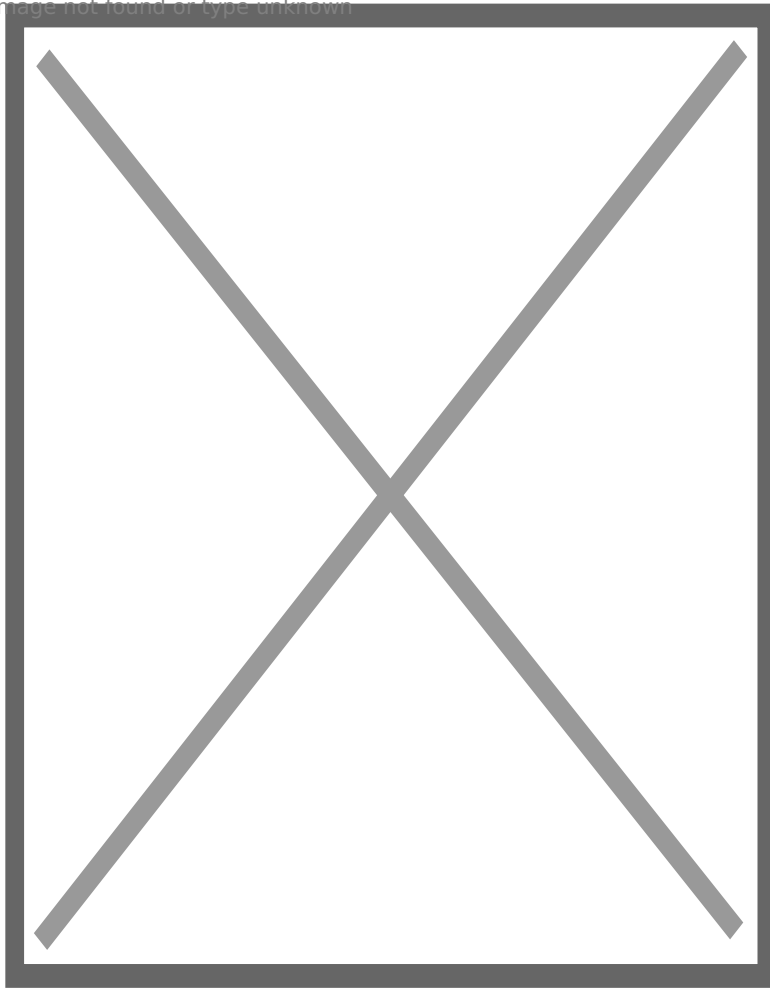
[https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/B07SLLYGF6?ref=dbs\\_m\\_mng\\_wam\\_calw\\_tkin\\_0&storeType=ebooks](https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/B07SLLYGF6?ref=dbs_m_mng_wam_calw_tkin_0&storeType=ebooks)

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### **Post by “Don” of May 30, 2024 at 2:20 PM**

For those who want to check which libraries near them have the print book 🤔

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[Heroes : the Greek myths reimagined | WorldCat.org](#)

In this continuation of "Mythos," Stephen Fry recounts the stories of the human heroes found in Greek mythology, with illustrations of classical art inspired...  
search.worldcat.org

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**Post by "Godfrey" of June 6, 2024 at 9:13 PM**

[How to Make a Ancient Roman Toga | Getty News](#) 😊

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**Post by "Bryan" of January 12, 2025 at 11:32 PM**

### [Quote from Cassius](#)

This topic came up Wednesday night when we were discussing that there doesn't seem to be a lot of detailed information on our usual core pages about the political situation in Athens during the specific years that Epicurus was alive.

I do want to recommend Plutarch's Life of Demetrius Poliorcetes ([link](#)), which does recount many of the top news stories from 305 to 283 BC, which was during Epikouros' prime. ([link for Loeb](#)).

Staggeringly wealthy celebrity women...

Worship of a living man as a god in Athens...

"Soapgate," i.e., Leadership of Athens spending millions of dollars of tax payer money (Silver value: ~\$5.7 million. Labor value: ~\$300 million) on imported toiletries for a group elite prostitutes...

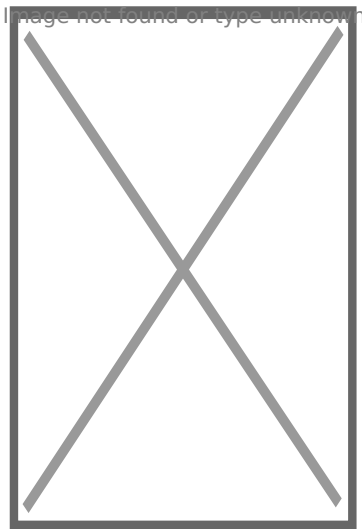
Skyscraper war-machines on wheels (10 stories high)...

etc. and those are just the early years!

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### **Post by "Cassius" of January 13, 2025 at 8:09 AM**

I presume this is an older edition but looks like there is an Archive.org link here:



[Plutarch's Lives : Plutarch : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

## Post by “Kalosyni” of March 26, 2025 at 7:58 AM

An interesting article: "**Ancient Greek and Roman statues often smelled like roses, a new study says**":

### Quote

Cecilie Brøns, a senior researcher and curator of the Glyptoteket museum's collection of ancient Greek and Roman art in Copenhagen, Denmark, says ancient texts provide evidence that statues were often scented with perfumes, oils and waxes.

<https://www.npr.org/2025/03/25/nx-s1-5332367/ancient-greece-rome-statues-smell-study-research>

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## Post by “Kalosyni” of September 17, 2025 at 7:18 PM

Epicurus likely would have been familiar with the cult of Eirene (eirene = peace).

### Quote

**Eirene** ([/aɪˈriːniː/](#); [Ancient Greek](#): Εἰρήνη, *Eirḗnē*, [\[eɪˈrɛːnɛː\]](#), lit. "Peace"),<sup>[1]</sup> more commonly known in English as **Peace**, is one of the [Horae](#), the personification and goddess of peace in [Greek mythology](#) and [ancient religion](#). She was depicted in art as a beautiful young woman carrying a [cornucopia](#), [sceptre](#), and a torch or [rhyton](#). She is usually said to be the daughter of [Zeus](#) and [Themis](#) and thus sister of [Dike](#) and [Eunomia](#). Her [Roman](#) equivalent is the goddess [Pax](#).

Eirene was particularly well regarded by the citizens of Athens. After a naval victory over [Sparta](#) in 375 BC, the Athenians established a cult for Peace, erecting [altars](#) to her. They held an annual state sacrifice to her after 371 BC to commemorate the [Common Peace](#) of that year and set up a votive statue in her honour in the [Agora of Athens](#). The statue was executed in bronze by [Cephisodotus the Elder](#), likely the father or uncle<sup>[2]</sup> of the famous sculptor [Praxiteles](#). It was acclaimed by the Athenians, who

depicted it on vases and coins.<sup>[3]</sup>

Although the statue is now lost, it was copied in marble by the Romans; one of the best surviving copies is in the [Munich Glyptothek](#). It depicts the goddess carrying a child with her left arm—[Plutus](#), the god of plenty and son of [Demeter](#), the goddess of agriculture. Peace's missing right hand once held a sceptre. She is shown gazing maternally at Plutus, who is looking back at her trustingly. The statue is an allegory for Plenty (i.e., Plutus) prospering under the protection of Peace; it constituted a public appeal to good sense.<sup>[3]</sup> The copy in the Glyptothek was originally in the collection of the [Villa Albani](#) in Rome but was looted and taken to France by [Napoleon I](#). Following Napoleon's fall, the statue was bought by [Ludwig I of Bavaria](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

source: [Wikipedia](#)