

Epicurus & Epicureanism

02/11

1. Epicurus
 - a. 4th century athenian
 - b. Studied philosophy at 14
 - c. Turned to philosophy because he didn't like his school teachers
 - d. The Garden (in Athens becomes final location of his school)
2. Epicurean Epistemology (study of nature, origin, human limits of knowledge)
 - a. Our senses, preconceptions and feelings are standards of truth
 - i. Sensations can't be refuted or convicted of error
 1. Equally valid
 - ii. Reason can't refute sensation, reason is dependent on sensation
 - iii. Preconceptions-apprehensions stored in mind of an external object that comes from sensation
 - b. 2 states of feeling
 - i. Pain and pleasure
 1. Pleasure: favorable to being, something sought/chosen
 2. Pain: hostile to being, something to avoid
3. Epicurean Philosopher
 - a. Motives for men
 - i. Hatred, envy, contempt
 1. Philosopher or wise man overcome them by reason
 - b. Wise men or susceptible to emotion but it will not hinder their wisdom
 - i. They will not call in love/or raise a family except in special circumstances
 - ii. Will not take part in politics
4. Epicurean Ethics
 - a. Men choose pleasure and avoid pain
 - i. Pleasure is a state of rest
 - b. Peace of mind/freedom from pain
 - c. Pains of mind are worse than pains of the body
 - i. Endure past and present
 - d. Virtue is chosen for sake of pleasure
 - e. Virtue is like medicine taken for health
 - f. No pleasure without virtue
 - g. Death is nothing, there is no soul, no pain after death
 - i. Atomism-everything is made up of atoms