

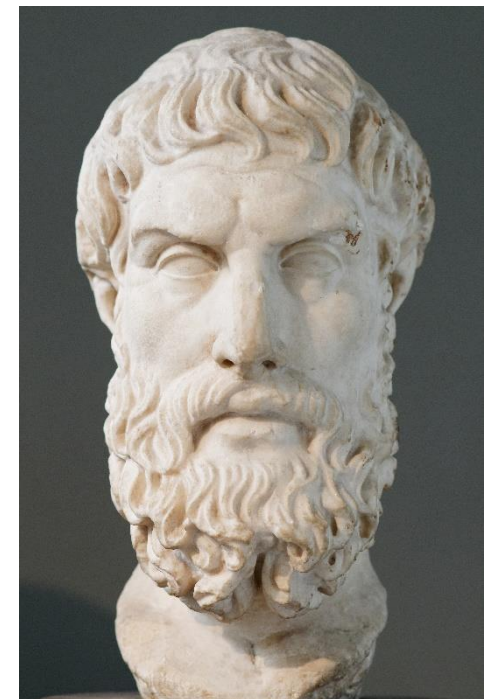
EPICURUS

Born 341 BCE Greece,

Died 270 BCE Greece a slow, painful death from kidney stone

Only three original letters and parts of two books by him survive

Founded Epicureanism, a highly influential school of philosophy



Philosophy (major Ideas)

Nothing is created out of nothing, and nothing is destroyed; the universe is neither increasing nor decreasing.

...Epicurus and his followers generally withdrew from politics because it could lead to frustrations and ambitions which can directly conflict with the Epicurean pursuit for peace of mind and virtues.

He criticized superstition and divine intervention

does not deny the existence of the gods; rather he denies their involvement in the world. The gods do not interfere with human lives or the rest of the universe in any way

Epicurus believed that **the greatest good** was to seek modest, sustainable happiness in the form of a state of *ataraxia* (tranquility and freedom from fear) and *aponia* (the absence of bodily pain) through knowledge of the workings of the world and limiting desires

Rejects immortality. It [immortality] believes in the soul, but suggests that the soul is mortal and material, just like the body. Epicurus **rejected any possibility of an afterlife**, while still contending that one **need not fear death**: "Death is nothing to us; for that which is dissolved, is without sensation, and that which lacks sensation is nothing to us."

The understanding of justice was inherently self-interested. Justice was deemed good because it was seen as mutually beneficial. Individuals would not act unjustly even if the act was initially unnoticed because of possibly being caught and punished. **Both punishment and fear of punishment would cause a person disturbance and prevent them from being happy**