



Anecdotes of the Cynics

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'It's you who are the dogs...'

What makes us happy? For over 800 years the Cynic philosophers of ancient Greece and Rome argued that the answer lay in a simple, self-sufficient life.

One of 46 new books in the bestselling Little Black Classics series, to celebrate the first ever Penguin Classic in 1946. Each book gives readers a taste of the Classics' huge range and diversity, with works from around the world and across the centuries - including fables, decadence, heartbreak, tall tales, satire, ghosts, battles and elephants.

Anecdotes of the Cynics Details

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From Reader Review Anecdotes of the Cynics for online ebook

Stephanie Youssef says

I love reading little books of big ideas: they're easy to digest, thought-provoking, and interesting AF. I can't wait to fill my Internet browsing history and library card with more Cynic philosophers.

Stephen Theaker says

"You import your pleasures from the ends of the earth, always prizing what's exotic over what's regional, what's expensive over what's cheap, what's hard to get over what's near to hand. In short, instead of a simple life you choose to fill it with unnecessary complication. Because all this expensive stuff which is supposedly so conducive to happiness and which you hold so dear costs a lot in terms of pain and aggravation."

Could have been written today!

Krystal says

Another small book with big ideas. I'd never heard of Diogenes but now I'll go looking for more of his story. This is very much one for the soul searchers; those looking for inspiration for becoming a better person. I wasn't really expecting it to resonate so much as it did. Well worth the hour or so it will take to digest.

Peter says

A real eclectic mix about the Cynic philosophers. The pleasure of this was being able to learn about their habits, attitudes, dress and some truly bizarre habits.

With this little 62 page book you can learn a great deal more for £1 than a book for £20.

Chad J Crase says

This a great collection of stories from the Cynic school of philosophers. Cynics were mainly about living a simple life free from material desire and in this regard has some parallels with Buddhism and probably early Christianity as well. It's hard to say how much of this is apocryphal - Diogenes' exploits especially appear always to be shrouded in doubt. His roaming the streets of Athens with a lantern claiming to be searching for a (true/honest) man really resonates and has inspired many works of art. There are other Cynics, but Diogenes is the one that I find the most interesting and this short book is worth reading just to learn more about him.

It's a shame that there isn't more written works from the Cynics, as many of their beliefs are relevant in

modern society. For Diogenes at least, creating a vast canon of written work clearly was not as important as actually living his philosophy. He could probably be described as anti-academic and anti-establishment - strata certainly represented by Plato. What I wouldn't give to be there in a Plato lecture with Diogenes loudly eating and interrupting; Plato's reaction would be priceless.

Tash says

This was just a wild collection of historical gossip about ancient Greek philosophers

But tbh there's something about the ancient Greek style of writing and philosophy that I just can't get behind, ideology wise and writing convention wise

Radhika Gunawardena says

For me, this was reminiscent of reading the teachings of Lord Buddha, but in fancy English.

Tuomas says

Way too short. Gets you a little interested & then ends.

Steve Gregory says

The Penguin little black classic series is great; likewise were the Cynic's.

Lone Wong says

And now a general assembly of the Greek was held at Corinth, where a vote was passed to mount an expedition against the Persian Empire. Alexander was named commander. Many statesmen and philosophers came and congratulated him. He had hoped to find Diogenes among them since the philosopher happened to be in note of him and continued to spend his days in the suburbs of Craneum. So Alexander personally called on the man, and kind him lounging in the sun. Diogenes stirred a bit when he saw this entourage approach, and turned his gaze in their direction. The prince hailed him, and offered him anything within his power to bestow. 'Get out of the way of the sun,' the other replied. Such pride and nobility, evinced by his evident nonchalance, is said to have made a great impression on Alexander. His attendants just laughed as they wandered off, but for his own part Alexander was heard to say, 'Truthfully, if I were not Alexander, I would choose to be Diogenes.'

A book full of wisdom and doctrine of Ancient Cynic philosophy from the founder of Cynicism by Diogenes to the modern cynicism Bion.

Sarah Parker says

A funny collection of anecdotes and quotes from some of Ancient Greece's Cynics.

Including quotes from Diogenes as well as moments of his life, this a a humorous look at an interesting way of thinking in Ancient Greece. What makes some of these anecdotes all the more interesting, is that many of them would not be out of place in a modern conversation!

R.L. says

This was a very quick read featuring some interesting anecdotes as per its title, but I expected it will offer a bit more than that. Some additional notes and feedback about the philosophers, their stories and the historical circumstances would put things more in context. That said, the chronology at the end of the book was useful and afterall, this might wet one's appetite to research more on the subject.

Sam says

A very short compilation of stories and quotations from those who practiced the Cynic philosophy. Goes over Diogenes, Crates, Hipparchia and Bion. It's purely translation and quotation, so there's not much to say about the writing, but I like the subject matter and I thought it was a decent introduction to their ideas and a good selection of funny tales.

Bob Hartley says

Further to being known as dogs, the cynics were the bitchiest school of Greek philosophy. A riotous collection.
