

Stoic Six Pack 5 - The Cynics: An Introduction to Cynic Philosophy, The Moral Sayings of Publius Syrus, Life of Antisthenes, The Symposium (Book IV), Life ... (Illustrated) (Stoic Six Pack Box Set)

Diogenes Laërtius, John MacCunn, Publius Syrus, Xenophon

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"I would rather go mad than feel pleasure."

- Antisthenes.

For Cynics the secret to happiness was living a life of virtue in harmony with Nature with only the bare essentials necessary for survival. They rejected materialism and were free of belongings. Many were homeless and proud of it. The Cynics emphasized the value of self-sufficiency, or *autarkeia*. They ate one (vegetarian) meal a day and made a habit of walking vast distances to stay in shape. The school extolled the virtue of perseverance, or *karteria*.

The founder of Cynicism was Antisthenes (445 - 365 BC), a former student of Socrates. He was followed by Diogenes of Sinope, who famously lived in a tub on the streets of Athens. The third key figure was Crates of Thebes (360 - 280 BC), a rich man who gave away his money to live a life of pious poverty. Crates wed the like-minded Hipparchia of Maroneia and they became one of the few known philosopher couples in antiquity.

**Stoic Six Pack 5** – **The Cynics** presents the key primary sources of this ancient philosophy, as well as secondary material to provide insight and understanding:

An Introduction to Cynic Philosophy by John MacCunn.

The Moral Sayings of Publius Syrus, a Roman Slave by Publius Syrus.

Life of Antisthenes by Diogenes Laërtius.

Book IV of *The Symposium* by Xenophon.

Life of Diogenes by Diogenes Laërtius.

Life of Crates by Diogenes Laërtius.

With the rise of Stoicism in the 3rd Century B.C., the Cynic movement stalled. But there was renewed interest in the 1st Century A.D. when bedraggled Cynics could be found on the streets of Rome in large numbers, preaching their creed of anti-materialism and a simple life. The philosophy struck a chord with certain elements of Roman society and Cynics flourished into the 4th Century A.D., unlike Stoicism, which had long since faded by that time.

- Diogenes of Sinope.

<sup>&</sup>quot;It is not that I am mad, it is only that my head is different from yours."

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