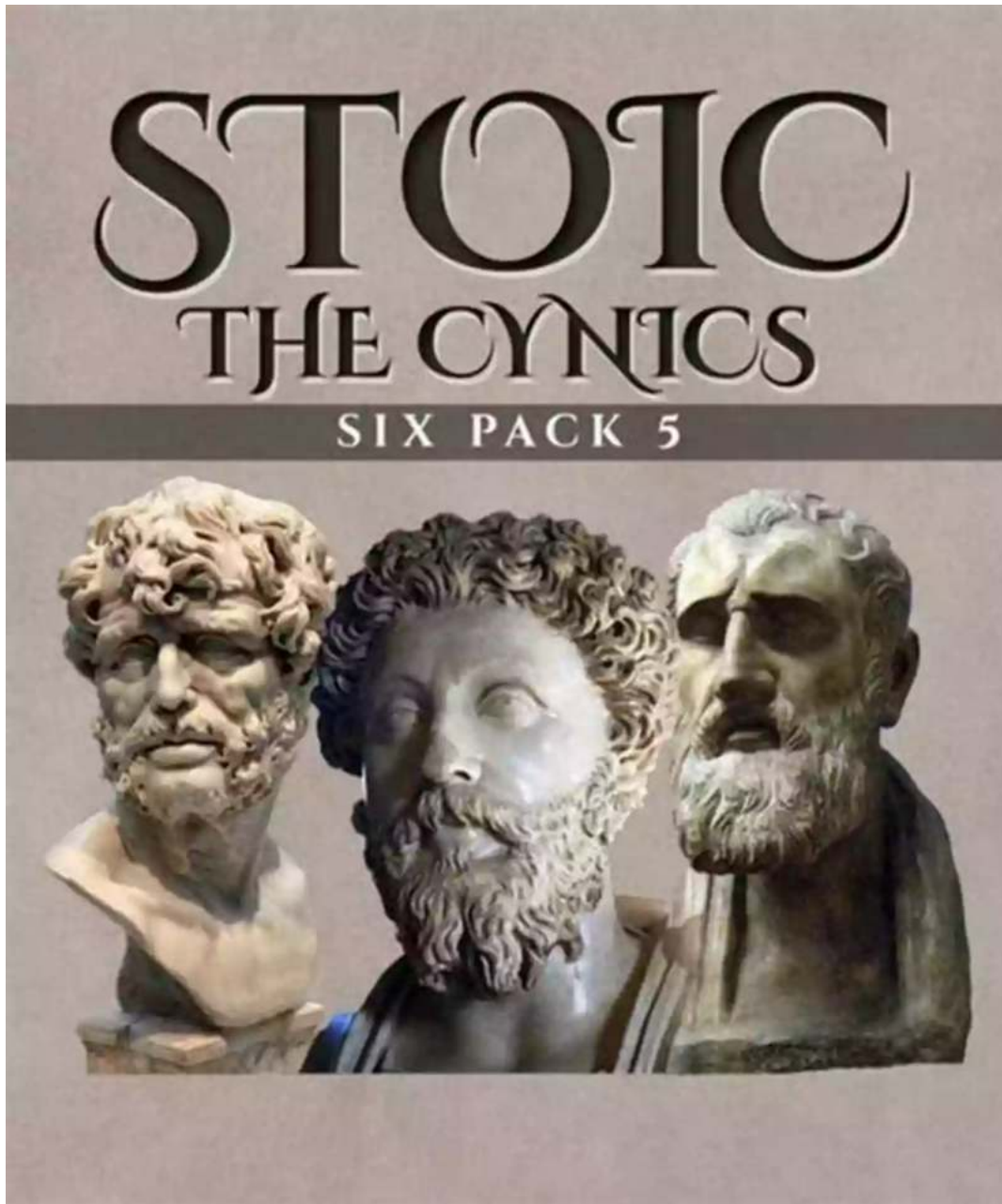


# The Cynics: Discover the Untamed Philosophy

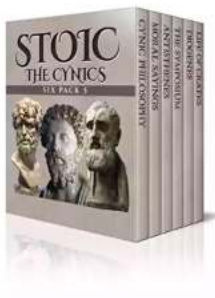


Are you tired of the conventional philosophies that provide uncompromising rules and ideals? Are you seeking a philosophy that challenges the norms and invites you to embrace your true nature? Look no further, as we delve into the world of

the Cynics, one of the six schools of ancient Greek philosophy included in the renowned Stoic Six Pack collection.

## Who Were the Cynics?

The Cynics were a group of philosophers who believed in living a simple, natural, and self-sufficient life. They rejected social conventions, material possessions, and societal expectations. Instead, they sought to live in accordance with nature, relying solely on reason and instinct.



### **Stoic Six Pack 5 – The Cynics: An Introduction to Cynic Philosophy, The Moral Sayings of Publus Syrus, Life of Antisthenes, The Symposium (Book IV), Life of Diogenes and Life of Crates (Illustrated)**

by Denny Neave (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1184 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 96 pages  
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Their name "Cynic" is derived from the Greek word "kynikos," meaning "dog-like." This title was bestowed upon them as they embraced a lifestyle devoid of social manners and niceties, resembling the untamed nature of dogs roaming freely. The Cynics aimed to unleash their true essence and be authentic in every aspect of life.

## The Founders of Cynicism

Diogenes of Sinope became the most renowned Cynic philosopher. He lived in a large ceramic jar, rejected materialism, and chose to live amongst the common people. Diogenes openly criticized societal norms, including cultural conventions, social status, and political power.

Another key figure in Cynicism was Antisthenes, a disciple of Socrates and the founder of the school. Antisthenes sought to question social values and norms in order to lead individuals towards a more virtuous, independent, and honest way of life.

## Principles of Cynicism

The Cynics believed that individuals should pursue self-mastery and live in harmony with nature. The core principles of Cynicism included:

- **Simplicity:** The Cynics rejected material possessions and upheld a simple way of life.
- **Self-Sufficiency:** They advocated for being self-reliant and not depending on external factors for happiness.
- **Honesty:** Cynics valued living truthfully and openly, embracing vulnerability and authenticity.
- **Natural Living:** They sought to live in accordance with nature and its simplicity.
- **Freedom:** The Cynics cherished personal freedom, liberated from societal constraints and expectations.
- **Independent Thinking:** They encouraged critical thinking, challenging popular beliefs and opinions.

## **The Influence of Cynicism**

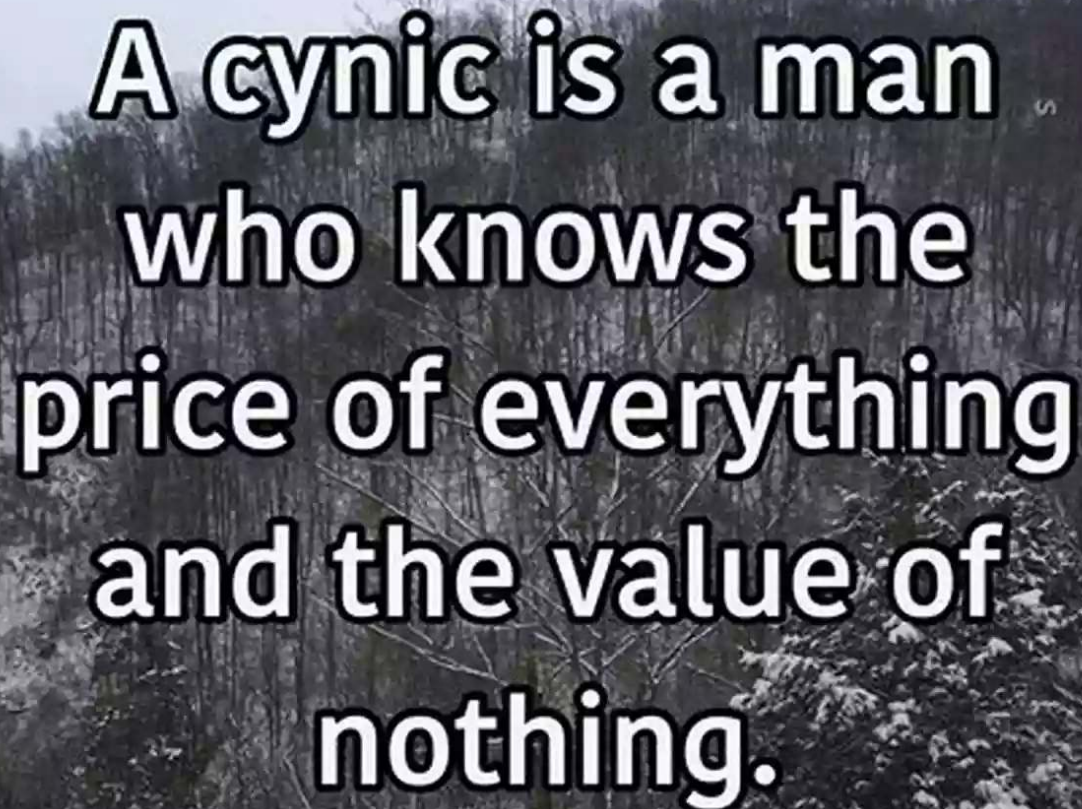
The philosophy of Cynicism influenced various aspects of ancient and modern lifestyles. It challenged conventional wisdom, inspiring individuals to question societal norms and redefine their values. The Cynics' unfiltered and honest approach served as a source of inspiration for future philosophers and thinkers.

Fast forward to today, the principles of Cynicism remain relevant in a world driven by materialism, pressure for conformity, and societal expectations. The Cynics' emphasis on self-sufficiency, simplicity, and authenticity can offer valuable insights to navigate the complexities of modern life.

## **Embark on Your Cynical Journey**

The Stoic Six Pack collection offers you the opportunity to delve deeper into the world of the Cynics. With the inclusion of notable works such as Diogenes Laërtius' "Lives of Eminent Philosophers" and Diogenes of Sinope's "Sayings and Anecdotes," you can gain profound insights into the philosophy that challenges societal norms and encourages individuals to embrace their true selves.

Join the ranks of those who seek to explore the unconventional aspects of life and liberate themselves from societal shackles. Immerse yourself in the world of the Cynics and discover a philosophy that resonates with your authentic self.

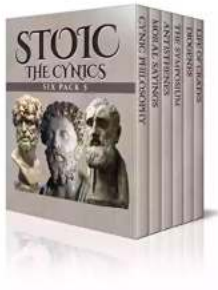


**A cynic is a man  
who knows the  
price of everything  
and the value of  
nothing.**

**~ Oscar Wilde**

Embrace the simplicity, authenticity, and freedom advocated by the Cynics. Experience the untamed philosophy for yourself through the Stoic Six Pack collection.

**Stoic Six Pack 5 – The Cynics: An Introduction to Cynic Philosophy, The Moral Sayings of Publus Syrus, Life of Antisthenes, The Symposium (Book**



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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 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.

“It is not that I am mad, it is only that my head is different from yours.”

- Diogenes of Sinope.



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