

In my thesis I was examining Cynicism and especially Diogenes of Sinope as its most important representant. I used the figure of Diogenes in order to explain the teachings and characteristics of this ancient movement. Regarding the teachings I mainly investigated the cynic concept of virtue and nature. I tried to show that Cynicism was not an immoral and purely destructive movement, but rather one which pursued a truly Socratic virtue and freedom, the so called parrhesia or freedom of speech, which should arouse other people and move them to think about validity of their values and attitudes. To this virtue connects the cynic behavior in Greek poleis, which is distinguished by the often offensive jesting aimed at ridiculing all that was generally considered sacred and undoubtedly valid.