

There are some who say that the study of philosophy had its beginning among the barbarians. They urge that . . . the Indians [have] their Gymnosophists. . . .

As to the Gymnosophists . . . we are told that they uttered their philosophy in riddles, telling men to reverence the gods, to abstain from wrongdoing, and to practise courage. The Gymnosophists at least despise even death itself . . .

-Diogenes Laertius, "Lives of Eminent Philosophers" (3rd century CE) excerpt