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# Diogenes and the Plucked Chicken

Short note for the Haimesian Archive • February 26, 2026

In ancient Athens, the philosopher Diogenes once responded to Plato's abstract definition of a human being as a "featherless biped" by presenting a plucked chicken and declaring, in effect, here is your philosopher's man. The gesture was not mockery for its own sake, but a protest against philosophy that forgets reality while chasing elegant language.

This image revisits that moment as a reminder that philosophy is not a game of clever definitions or intellectual performance. It exists to test ideas against life itself - to expose where theory collapses under contact with the real. Diogenes stands as the philosopher willing to go the distance, even into discomfort or absurdity, if that is what truth requires.

The message is simple: philosophy is serious work precisely because it refuses to hide behind abstraction. When ideas fail reality, reality must win.

*Artwork created by Michael Richard Haimes.*