



Plato and the Avars

[Source: DTE](#)

Recent scientific advances have uncovered **Plato's burial site** and shed light on the **Avars'** historical significance, unveiling two intriguing past chapters.

- Plato (427-348 BCE), a prominent philosopher from Greece, was a student of Socrates (470-399 BCE) and a teacher of Aristotle (384-322 BCE).
 - In North India and Pakistan, they are known as 'Sukraat', 'Aflatoon', and 'Arastu' respectively.
 - Ancient **papyrus scrolls** (writing material used in ancient Egypt and the Mediterranean) discovered in the 18th century from Herculaneum unveiled Plato's burial in **Athens' Academia garden.**
- Avars, a dominant power in eastern central Europe from the late 6th century CE to the early 9th century.
 - The Avars originated from eastern central Asia and settled in the Carpathian Basin. The researchers collected DNA from Avar cemeteries and used a method called **ancIBD** to investigate the social practices of the Avars.
 - ancIBD detects **Identity-by-Descent (IBD) segments** in ancient human DNA (aDNA). IBD segments are long DNA sequences shared between two individuals and are a signal for recent genealogical connections.
 - The findings reveal that **Avars avoid cousin marriage** and have minimal intermarriage with non-Avars.
 - They practised **Levirate unions** (a widow married a male from the family of her deceased spouse), which is not common in Europe but were an **established feature of steppe peoples from Asia** and had a strict **patrilineal structure.**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/plato-and-the-avars>