Alexander the Great Meets Diogenes the Cynic

Once Alexander whipped the rebellious
Greek city states back into line
he stopped in Corinth to meet Diogenes,
expecting that the Cynic would seek him out,
he being Alexander after all.
But Diogenes didn't show
so Alexander made a point of looking him up.
He found Diogenes, naked, sun tanning,
and Diogenes asked him to move over,
he was blocking the sun.
This impertinence impressed the Conqueror
and he exclaimed, "Were I not Alexander,
I would be Diogenes!"

The word "cynic" derives from the Greek "dog"
because the Cynics were disparaged by all
and described as living like dogs.
"When I die," Diogenes instructed his disciples,
"Toss me into a ditch so the dogs
can have a good meal."

Aristotle had, of course, taught Alexander
to distrust everything, something the tutor
learned from Plato. So where is the disconnect?
One side of the coin, Alexander defeats
the entire word, well, not quite, but most of it;
the other, Alexander a dog in the gutter.
I assume that if you distrust everything,
regard the whole shebang as illusion,
why not go ahead and conquer it and stamp
it with your likeness? Or emulate a dog?
Why not?

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