

Scientism, Atheism, And The Admissibility Of Spiritual Experience

Post by "Don" of November 22, 2020 at 9:52 PM

In re-reading this thread, I began to wonder if the experiences referred to as peak, religious, spiritual, etc. are one way that people can get a taste of the gods' existence.

I am **firmly** in the Sedley "idealist" camp when it comes to Epicurus's gods. I am (mostly) convinced by his arguments, so i do not believe there are actual beings living in the intermundia. But I come back to 2 points:

1. "There are gods" but "they are not as the hoi polloi believe them to be"
2. BUT people **do** have religious, blissful experiences.

How to reconcile these? Maybe those experiences allow some to actualize the existence of those idealized gods in a physical manifestation and literally, for a short time, to feel as if they live as gods. While experiencing the pleasures of blessedness (makarios) one also experiences a sensation of timelessness which feels like incorruptibility. I fully realize this could be going well beyond the opposit pale, but i wanted to at least throw it out there. It's **one** way to reinterpret those real experiences in an Epicurean context.