

# The Epicurean Gods As A Standard To Which To Aspire

Post by "Cassius" of July 14, 2018 at 9:11 AM

Here we ought to consider whether Epicurus should be thought of as a god himself. In addition to Epicurus' own "gods among men" comment, probably the most important reference is the

serious, or  
 it comparing

<p>T. LUCRETII LIB. V.  <i>QUIS potis est dignum pallenti pectore carere      Covelere, pro reram magnitate, hisque reperit?      Quisve valet verbis tantum, qui favorem laudis      Pro meritis Epae possit, qui tanta nitui      Pectore parva suo, quosvisque gravata liquit? 5      Nemo (at spem) erit mortali corpore cretus.      Nam si, ut ipsa petii magnitas ignota rerum,      Dicendum est: Deus ille fuit, Deus, inclytus Memmi,      Qui Principis vite rationem invenit esse, que      Nunc appellatur Sapientia: quip pro oratione 10      Fluctibus et tantis vitam, tantisque turbatis,      In tam tranquillo, et tam clara luce locavit.      Cuius ratio Divina ab omni auspicio reperta,      Navasque Ceres fertur fruges, Liberque liquoris      Fœtigera lætorem succulenta effudit: 15      Cum tanta his gustis sua verba Fuit mœnere:      Ut fundit aliquid cœcum ante vitæ gemitu.      At heu non parat sua pectore vitæ,      Quis magis hic meritis vobis esse videtur,      Ex quo vult cœcum per magnum datus gemitu      Dulcia pervenire avocans solatus vitæ.</i></p>	<p><b>Brown 1743:</b> Who can, with all his soul inspired, compose fit numbers, worthy the majesty of so great things, of these discoveries? Or who, in words alone, can sing his praise, and equal his deserts, who from the labour of his mind has left such benefits, and bestowed rewards so glorious on mankind? No mortal man alive, as I conceive, for could I raise my verse to reach the dignity of things he knew, he was a god, my noble Memmius, a god he was, who first found out that rule of life which is now called true wisdom; and who this human life, so tossed with storms, and so overwhelmed in darkness, has rendered by his art so calm, and placed in so clear a light.      Compare the benefits long since found out by those who now are gods. Ceres, they say, discovered first the use of corn, and Bacchus gave me the knowledge of the vine and its sweet juice. Yet men might still have lived without both these, as many nations, we are told, do now. But no true life could be, without the mind easy and free, and therefore with better right is he to us a god, whose gentle rules, received throughout the world, bestowed on men tranquility and peace.</p>	<p><b>Mans 1886:</b> Who is able with powerful genius to frame a poem worthy of the grandeur of the things and these discoveries? Or who is so great a master of words as to be able to devote praises equal to the deserts of him who left to us such prizes won and earned by his own genius? None, methinks, who is formed of mortal body. For if we must speak as the acknowledged grandeur of the things itself demands, a god he was, a god, most noble Memmius, who first found out that plan of life which is now termed wisdom, and who by trained skill rescued life from such great billows and such thick darkness and moored it in so perfect a calm and in so brilliant a light.      Compare the godlike discoveries of others in old times: Ceres is famed to have pointed out to mortals corn, and Liber the vine-born juice of the grape; though life might well have subsisted without these things, as we are told some nations even now live without them. But a happy life was not possible without a clean breast; wherefore with more reason this man is deemed by us a god, from whom came those sweet solaces of existence which even now are distributed over great nations and gently soothe the men's minds.</p>	<p><b>Bailey 1936:</b> Who can avail by might of mind to build a poem worthy to match the majesty of truth and these discoveries? Or who has such skill in speech, that he can fashion praises to match his deserts, who has left us such prizes, conceived and sought out by his own mind? There will be no one, I judge, born of mortal body. For if we must speak as befits the majesty of the truth now known to us, then he was a god, yea a god, noble Memmius, who first found out that principle of life, which now is called wisdom, and who by his skill saved our life from high seas and thick darkness, and enclosed it in calm waters and bright light.      For set against this the heaven-sent discoveries of others in the days of old. Ceres is fabled to have taught to men the growing of corn, and Liber the liquor of the vine-born juice; and yet life could have gone on without these things, as tales tell us that some races live even now. But a good life could not be without a clean heart; wherefore more rightly is he counted a god by us, thanks to whom now sweet solaces for life soothe the mind, spread even far and wide among great peoples.</p>	<p><b>Smith 2001:</b> Who possesses the powerful inspiration to compose a poem worthy to match the majesty of my theme and these discoveries? Who has the command of language needed to devise praises proportionate to the merits of him who has bequeathed to us such rich treasures, sought and acquired by his own intellect? No one, I think, who is of mortal birth. For if we are to speak as the majesty of his revelations demands, a god he was, a god, illustrious Memmius, who first discovered that principle of life which is now identified with wisdom, and who by his genius saved life from such mighty seas and such deep darkness and moored it in such calm water and so brilliant a light.      Do but compare with his gifts the divine discoveries of others in ancient times. Ceres, according to legend, introduced corn to mortals, and Liber the liquor made from the juice of the grape; and yet these things are not essential to life: indeed it is reported that some peoples even now live without them. But a good life could not be lived without a pure mind, and so we have the more justification for deifying the author of the sweet consolations of life that, disseminated throughout mighty nations, even now are soothing people's minds.</p>
---	---	---	--	---