

Who Was Bernard Mandeville and Was He Truly An Epicurean?

Post by “Eikadistes” of August 27, 2021 at 10:45 AM

I came across Mandeville in my research and initially added him to my list. There are a few loose citations that tie him to the Epicurean philosophical tradition (and not just modern *epicurean* stereotypes). He seems to have been familiar with the specifics of the philosophy and made several observations about Christian neo-Epicureanism.

Quote

The controversial Epicurean moralist, **Bernard Mandeville**, makes a distinction between Christian Epicureans like **Erasmus**, **Gassendi** and **Temple**, who claim that piety and virtue are the only true sources of *voluptas*, and libertines such as Hobbes's follower **Charles de Saint-Évremond**, who associate it with more straightforwardly sensual pleasure.” (Bullard, *Edmund Burke and the Art of Rhetoric* 91)