

New Sedley Chapter On Ancient Greek Atheism

Post by “Don” of March 20, 2022 at 12:26 AM

I thought it might be helpful to link to [my notes from Philodemus's On Piety](#) (edited/translated by Dr. Dirk Obbink).

I also just (re-)found P.Oxyrhynchus 215 as possibly being written by Epicurus or, at the very least, an Epicurean philosopher: <https://archive.org/details/oxyrhy...up?view=theater>

I found this translation on p. 32 interesting emphasis added):

' Nor, indeed, even when this further statement is made by the ordinary man, •' I fear all the gods and worship them, and to them I wish to make every sacrifice and offering.' It may perhaps imply more taste on his part than the average, nevertheless by this formula he has not yet reached the trustworthy principle of religion. But do you, sir, consider that the most blessed state lies in the formation of a just conception concerning the best thing that we can possibly imagine to exist ; and reverence and worship this idea.' [και θαυμαζε ταυτην την διαληψιν και σεβου']

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, Θθ , θαρσα^λ-εότης , θαυμ-άζω \(tufts.edu\)](#)

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, δ , διαλα_κέω , διάληψις \(tufts.edu\)](#)

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, Σ ς , Σεβάστ-ιος , σέβομαι \(tufts.edu\)](#)