

New Sedley Chapter On Ancient Greek Atheism

Post by "Eikadistes" of March 24, 2022 at 1:22 PM

Truthfully, I've been somewhat perplexed that Epicurus supported public religious festivals with enthusiasm while simultaneously maintaining that (1) the prevailing beliefs of his time were false and (2) Idealistic beliefs are harmful. I guess what I want to know is this: in which public festivals, *specifically*, **did** Epicurus participate? Better yet, let me ask, what public festivals existed in Hellenistic Greece were compatible with Epicurean theology? Orphic mysteries and Dionysian rites involved intoxicants and mysticism, Apollonian festivals celebrated a generous and human-centric solar deity ... exactly what was there for Epicurus that was neither (1) a false belief shared with the masses, or (2) Idealism?

(... then again, *just thinking out loud*, I may **actually** understand this, because Christmas has always been one of my favorite celebrations, and Jesus stopped being a part of my Christmas the same year that Santa Claus did, so belief has never been an integral part of my celebration of the Mass of Christ, whom I believe in 0% ... then again, *then again*, my favorite Christmas traditions are medieval, Germanic additions, and I don't participate in any of the Jesus-related parts, so, I could easily forgive someone for arguing that I am not *really* celebrating Christmas "*the right way*". Perhaps Epicurus took the best of the public gatherings while quietly rejecting the intellectual propositions of the priests?)