

Episode One Hundred Thirty-Five - The Letter to Menoecus 02 - On The Nature of the Gods

Post by "Cassius" of August 15, 2022 at 11:30 AM

Here's another comment I should have included in the "things that seem clear and we all agree on about Epicurean theology" list:

Most of us probably associate some variation of "faith" or "blind faith" as an inherent attribute of religion, like the supernatural and omniscience and other things we associate with monotheism.

I think we would all agree (would we not?) that there is no hint of "faith" of any kind in Epicurus' attitude toward divinity. He seems to be basing his views firmly on "images" or "anticipations" or some variation of that kind of evidence, and he is not suggesting that we take anything whatsoever "on faith" without evidence. He seems very clear on distinguishing between things we can determine clearly, and what we can't, and there's no hint of suggesting that anything be taken on faith.

Given that the issue of "faith" is so central to our modern views of religion that is a probably a point well worth stressing.