

Epicureans and the Ancient Greek Gods (Imagery of "Gods" / "Gods Among Men")

Post by "Matt" of February 13, 2019 at 2:47 PM

Hi Elli,

Thank you for your detailed response.

However, I still maintain my objections to the ancient polytheistic religion on the grounds that they violate PD.1.

In your response you are equating Eros/Zeus with a *mythological* reasoning. Basically that Zeus is not a *real* deity that has any consequence on mortal lives, but rather he is an allegorical idealistic figure of human imagination. He is an imaginary being that is the product of the mind and desires of poets. In this scenario neither Zeus nor Ganymede are real and therefore they are not of any concern to us.

But...

Conversely, if you say that Zeus is as real as you and I are, and that he resides on top of Mt. Olympus, and his desire for Ganymede caused him to take the form of an eagle and abscond with him then we are dealing with something entirely different. So I ask how this corresponds to the Epicurean doctrine that the gods are remote, removed and unaffected by mortals, how do these two doctrines coexist?

We can see now that there are multiple levels to this discussion:

First, whether or not the [Epicurean gods](#) are even possible. Whether they are real or simply allegorical figures. (Which the debate continues ad infinitum without resolution.)

And second, pertaining to this specific post, if the Epicurean deities should be associated with the Greco-Roman polytheistic deities.

If the gods (Epicurean or polytheistic) are ***not real*** and figments of the mind only, there is no need to utilize any images whatsoever of any deity because what they represent strongly contradicts with what Epicurus spoke of. Which ultimately collapses back onto itself because there are no gods of any kind Epicurean or otherwise.

If the gods are ***real*** then we arrive at the usual debate over how they can be real given the specific requirements placed on them by Epicurus, and how we should even be able to imagine them. This of course opens up Epicureanism to strong, strong criticism.

Either way it is my opinion that attempting to hold on to Zeus and Hera, will overall not be beneficial when trying to explain away Allah or Vishnu.