

Metaphorically Picturing Epicurean Philosophy

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As *Plato's Allegory* included certain symbols that reverberate throughout his teachings (like **the Sun**, which not only represent philosophical illumination, but also, is literally a temporal manifestation of The Good), I would recommend the inclusion of Epicurean symbols. Symbols include (1) the **brave, happy leaping pig**, (2) a **bright lighthouse that weathers a ferocious storm**, (3) a **port with tranquil waters**, (4) the **waning gibbous moon**, (5) a **kylix** which might be seen on the dinner table every Eikas, (6) the **images of Epicurus, Metrodorus, Hermarchus**, or representation of "Mother Earth", "Gaia", "Venus", (*etc.*), (7) ascension to **the summit of a mountain of maximum pleasure**, (8) indivisible **particles**, (9) **natural imagery** or pastoral environments, (10) cheese, cheese, cheese, cheese, cheese, cheese, **cheese**.

At the same time, I also want to caution that one of the obstacles I ran into when conceptualizing an "Epicurean Allegory" was the tendency of metaphors to become misconstrued into mystical objects ("*the map being mistaken for the territory*"). Some of the symbols I included (like the "Desert of Superstition" and the "Mountain of Virtue") are derogations against the symbology adopted by philosophical opponents rather than a self-reflexive sort of icon.