

NeoPlatonism Basics Relevant to the Study of Epicurus

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One thing that left an impression on me in recent research was the similarity (and coherence) between *Pythagoreanism* and *neo-Pythagoreanism*, *Platonism* and *neo-Platonism*, *Gnosticism*, *Heterodox Christianity*, *Orthodox Christianity*, and the emerging schools of *Hindu Vedanta*. The similarities are *not simply parallels* between compatible traditions. Rather, there are **direct historical links** between each tradition that lead me to believe that it is educationally helpful to group these *Idealisms* into a single branch that considers numbers and logic to be more real than food and water. For example, the first neo-Platonists were either Indian "gymnosophists" themselves, or they were the direct students of Indian gurus. It seems to me that Vedanta is directly responsible for the resurgence of Platonism as a competitor against Christianity and Mithraism in the 2nd-4th-centuries.