

# One of the Greatest Epicureans of All?

Post by “Cyrano” of February 8, 2024 at 9:41 PM

Thanks, Cassius, for your kind words about my writing. If it reads well it's because it had to sound well. It was originally a talk I gave to fifty atheists. It was of necessity dramatic.

Spinoza an Epicurean? The question is much discussed on Google. If we search for “Spinoza, Epicurus,” we find many, many entries. Most are by and about Dimitris Vardoulakis, Greek philosopher and Associate Professor of philosophy in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts at Western Sydney University.

*Spinoza the Epicurean* and *Spinoza Now* are titles of his books and essays.

A quote from one of one above: “The kind of materialism that I ascribe to Spinoza is epicureanism. Like all materialisms, epicureanism in Spinoza includes the rejection of creation ex nihilo. Specifically, in Spinoza this takes the form of the affirmation of a substance outside of which nothing exists, or his so-called monism.”

Another: “The major source of Spinoza's materialism is the Epicurean tradition that re-emerges in modernity when manuscripts by Epicurus and Lucretius are rediscovered.”

We are told by one reviewer that “Vardoulakis offers a fascinating account of the dynamic interaction of Epicurean themes within Spinoza's thought.