

Episode 227 - Cicero's OTNOTG - 02 - Velleius Begins His Attack On Traditional Views Of The Gods

Post by “Bryan” of May 18, 2024 at 12:23 PM

Cassius, I agree with most of DeWitt's thinking regarding the gods not being inherently immortal -- although they do maintain immortality (ἡ ἀθανασία) in practice.

Philódēmos, On Piety, 1.40.1138:

For the devout man preserves the **immortality** and the supreme blessedness of god (along with all those things connected to us) – but impious towards god is he who banishes either one. The man who deliberates without anger and without weakening of favor on [god's] preparations that [originate] from himself for both benefits and harms – this shows god to be in need of nothing from humans...

[Obbink] For pious is the person who preserves the **immortality** and consummate blessedness of God (together with all the things included by us) – but impious is the person who banishes either [blessedness or immortality] where God is concerned. And the person who sees also that the good and ill (sent us by God) come without any unhealthy anger or benevolence – declares that God has no need of human things..

[Όσιος] γὰρ ὁ τὴν **ἀθαν[ασίαν]** καὶ τὴν ἄκραν μακα[ριότητα] τοῦ θεοῦ σώ[ζων] (σὺν) ἅπασιν τ[οῖς] συναπτομένοις ἡμῖν) – ἀσεβῆς δὲ περὶ θεόν ὃς ἐκά[τερον] [έξορ]ίξει μὲν. ὁ δ' [έπινο]ῶν χωρὶς ὀργῆ[ς] καὶ χάριτος ἀσθενούσης τὰς ἐξ αὐτοῦ παρασκε[υὰς] τῶν ἀ[γα]θῶν καὶ τῶν κακῶν – ἀπο[φά]ινετ' [αὐτὸν] τῶν ἀνθρω[πειῶν] μηδ[ε]νὸς πρὸς δεῖσθαι...