

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

Post by “Little Rocker” of June 13, 2024 at 12:54 PM

## [Quote from Twentier](#)

(Along those lines, every group of humans seems to have independently *intoxication is memorable*, and—what I continue to emphasize is *not only* not a coincidence, but is rather a fundamental feature of spirituality—almost every religion incorporates an intoxicant or intoxicating practice into the heart of their rituals).

Love that you hedged with the 'almost every' here because those of us raised old-school evangelical were regrettably taught that sobriety was close to godliness. I was told, no joke, that Jesus did not actually turn the water in to wine, but into grape juice!

Epicurus would also likely have access to some older reports that suggested universality and relativism of religious practice, including Herodotus' reports of his travels. And while It's probably already showed up in a previous discussion, one of my favorite Presocratic fragments is from Xenophanes:

"But if cattle or lions had hands, so as to paint with their hands and produce works of art as men do, they would paint their gods and give them bodies in form like their own-horses like horses, cattle like cattle."