

Welcome Al-Haakim!

Post by "Cassius" of January 13, 2025 at 7:56 AM

One more comment about the Jefferson connection. i too found it highly motivational to understand Epicurus as an influence on Jefferson and thereby as an influence on the development of American historical thought. But the significance by no means stops there. At some point you'll want to consider Nietzsche's interpretations of Epicurus (not all of which are consistent, unfortunately) and especially consider what Nietzsche had to say in his "Antichrist" about the influence of Epicurus and Lucretius on the entire Western world, rather than just on America. Jefferson reserved much of his appreciation for Epicurus for his private letters, but Nietzsche referenced Epicurus in public and in very challenging terms.

[Quote from Nietzsche' Antichrist](#)

The sneakishness of hypocrisy, the secrecy of the conventicle, concepts as black as hell, such as the sacrifice of the innocent, the unio mystica in the drinking of blood, above all, the slowly rekindled fire of revenge, of Chandala revenge—all that sort of thing became master of Rome: the same kind of religion which, in a pre-existent form, Epicurus had combatted. One has but to read Lucretius to know what Epicurus made war upon—not paganism, but "Christianity", which is to say, the corruption of souls by means of the concepts of guilt, punishment and immortality.—He combatted the subterranean cults, the whole of latent Christianity—to deny immortality was already a form of genuine salvation.—Epicurus had triumphed, and every respectable intellect in Rome was Epicurean—*when Paul appeared...* Paul, the Chandala hatred of Rome, of "the world", in the flesh....

Also for another far-reaching publicly-stated interpretation of Epicurus that has a Jefferson connection, be sure to read his friend's Frances Wright's "[A Few Days In Athens](#)." That's another highly interesting book that I myself might never have found without our Epicurean networking on the internet.