

Prolepsis of the gods

Post by “Rolf” of June 26, 2025 at 5:10 PM

If I'm understanding correctly, Epicurus says that prolepsis is a universal guide or criterion that leads us to the knowledge that (among other things) the gods are blessed and incorruptible.

However, many gods that were and are worshipped are violent, jealous etc. Zeus, for example. To this, Epicurus writes:

Quote

For the sayings of the multitude about the gods are not true preconceptions but false assumptions.

Isn't this essentially the same as saying, “prolepsis is a universal criterion, except when it isn't”? On what basis is he able to dismiss these exceptions to his claim as errors?