

Reasoning through the Letter to Menoecus' On the Gods

Post by “Kalosyni” of October 18, 2025 at 9:49 AM

"First of all believe that god is a being immortal and blessed, even a **the common idea of a god is engraved on men's minds**, and do not assign to him anything alien to his immortality or ill-suited to his blessedness: but believe about him everything that can uphold his blessedness and immortality. **For gods there are, since the knowledge of them is by clear vision.** But they are not such as the many believe them to be: for indeed they do not consistently represent them as they believe them to be. And the impious man is not he who popularly denies the gods of the many, but he who attaches to the gods the beliefs of the many.

[124] **For the statements of the many about the gods are not conceptions derived from sensation, but false suppositions**, according to which the greatest misfortunes befall the wicked and the greatest blessings (the good) by the gift of the gods. For men being accustomed always to their own virtues welcome those like themselves, but regard all that is not of their nature as alien.

What other textual evidence do we have, from Lucretius etc.?

PD 01 doesn't use the word "gods".

Also, we'll need to cross-reference anything on the prolepsis of the gods (I'll see what I can dig up and post here soon).