

Reasoning through the Letter to Menoeceus' On the Gods

Post by “Eikadistes” of October 24, 2025 at 3:59 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Are the gods *athanatos* in some texts?

They sure are!

Philódēmos employs the word **καθανατοις** (*kathanatois*) in lines 69-70 of *On Piety*.

In line 1139, he refers to **ἀθάνασιαν** (*athanasian*) or "immortality".

[Quote from Don](#)

I was under the impression that the gods were "incorruptible" and not "immortal."

On Piety gives us at least three alternatives to ἄφθαρτον (*aphtharton*).

He quotes Epíkouros as writing "...that it is possible even for **many eternal** and **immortal** gods to exist" (lines 65-70). Obbink translates "**eternal**" from [2] **ἀίδιος** (*áidios*). Then, in line 693, he uses the word [3] **δαινωια** (*diainōia*), from "δια-" and "**αινωια**", roughly, "for forever".

Though, they **are** also "incorruptible" as per KD1 and the *Epistle to Menoikeus*.