

# Cicero Says Epicurean Souls, After Death, Will Flutter Around the Globe For A Long Period Until They Are "Purified"

Post by "Cassius" of October 29, 2019 at 8:53 AM

Two thoughts for the day (1) Don't expect Platonists (or their gods) to treat Epicureans with  
| to flutter continually  
| purified" -- or so sayeth

## CICERO'S THE COMMONWEALTH.

Do you, therefore, exercise this mind of yours in the best pursuits. And the best pursuits are those which consist in promoting the good of your country. Such employments will speed the flight of your mind to this its proper abode; and its flight will be still more rapid, if, even while it is enclosed in the body, it will look abroad, and disengage itself as much as possible from its bodily dwelling, by the contemplation of things which are external to itself.

This it should do to the utmost of its power. For the minds of those who have given themselves up to the pleasures of the body, paying, as it were, a servile obedience to their lustful impulses, have violated the laws of God and man; and therefore, when they are separated from their bodies, flutter continually round the earth on which they lived, and are not allowed to return to this celestial region till they have been purified by the revolution of many ages.

Thus saying, he vanished, and I awoke from my dream.

## Post by “Godfrey” of October 29, 2019 at 1:38 PM

Sounds like a precursor to the Dark Ages. It's amazing how much power ideas like this acquired.

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## Post by “Joshua” of October 29, 2019 at 2:41 PM

Ha! Delightful.

The Talmud holds that Epicureans will be denied a share in "the world to come".

Dante's Sado-Masochism takes a subdued turn with Epicurus (Canto X), and finds us with our teachers lying in unlidged tombs. On the day of judgment our souls will awaken to the lids of the tombs sliding shut, and our souls will be trapped with our bodies—we've chosen materialism, don't forget—for all eternity.

This last imagined punishment must be a disappointment to Tertullian, who believed in the 3rd century that gloating over the torture of the damned would be one of the keenest pleasures of paradise;

### Quote

What a panorama of spectacle on that day! Which sight shall excite my wonder? Which, my laughter? Where shall I rejoice, where exult [...] those wise philosophers blushing before their followers as they burn together, the followers whom they taught that the world is no concern of God's whom they assured that either they had no souls at all or that what souls they had would never return to their former bodies?

from *On Spectacles*.

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## Post by “Cassius” of October 29, 2019 at 5:06 PM

This provides us a good list of the top enemies of Epicurean philosophy 😊 Thanks Joshua!