

Scientism, Atheism, And The Admissibility Of Spiritual Experience

Post by "Don" of November 23, 2020 at 7:08 AM

[Elayne](#) , I honestly can't tell whether you're open to what I posted or not. 🤔 Sorry.

Just to clarify:

Quote

It baffles me why imagination is seen as somehow insulting or inferior, vs having a literal image from a literal being.

That's what I was trying to convey, possibly clumsily. In my contextual reinterpretation here of "religious experiences", there are no literal beings. The "idealist" approach honors Epicurus's "there are gods" in the sense of imaginative archetypal concepts of blessedness and incorruptibility. The "images" are generated by humans "toward" the gods.

Those peak experiences - and as you say even you have experienced them - need to be accounted for and placed in a context once one "comes down" from them. "What was that all about?" My offering here is to say those experiences are what it would feel like to be a "god" - the ineffable sensation of pleasure during such an experience is what it would "feel" like to be a god. You're not God or a god, but that's a genuine experience of what it might feel like to embody the blessedness and incorruptibility of what Epicurus wrote. It's a physical manifestation of an archetypal concept using an Epicurean "theological" vocabulary.

I might even go so far as to suggest that that experience itself is the prolepses Epicurus talked about since those experiences seem so widespread.