

# Reverence and Awe In Epicurean Philosophy

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I tried for a time to combine my inherent interest of divinity and mysticism with Epicurean philosophy. Because Epicurus left it so open ended, I ended up trying to fill in the gaps between the atoms and void.

I found that for my own purposes, EP would never have a system that would compete with Christian theology or Neoplatonism etc. but the question becomes...do I want it to? Other more concrete systems give theological formulas about gods, Epicurus says for me not to worry about the gods.

I have to imagine that during the time of Epicurus, the local traditional religious cults filled the vacuum and provided all the holidays, feasts and observances for Epicureans, Stoics and the non-philosophical alike. Today the closest thing we have to that is our Abrahamic and Dharmic religions that are philosophically different from the Hellenistic traditional religion....so much so that some are religiously exclusive and EP has no place among them. It seems to me that Epicurean ideas appeared at a very specific time in history where poets were still telling heroic tales of Zeus and Poseidon, and the two worlds were not necessarily mutually exclusive. You could have an “Epicurean” or “Stoic” view or interpretation of these gods or tales.

Epicurus did not have Christian or Muslim apologists to compete with to the extent that we have today. That was a later evolution. And truly it becomes it's own discussion per modern religion involved.

In my opinion, a person accepting Epicurus and his theology is someone who is no longer seeking mysticism and is entirely comfortable with not really discussing the gods in any meaningful way. This may not appeal to all, and I personally understand that. But each person must ask themselves...”do the gods of other systems give me pleasure?” “Give me peace?” Or do they place you on a journey back into the heart of speculative metaphysics?