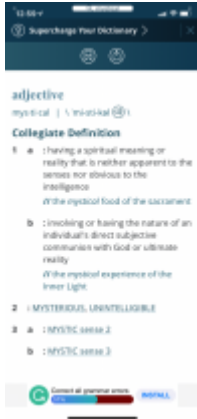


Reverence and Awe In Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Elayne" of December 24, 2020 at 2:23 PM



Mystical is one of those tricky words, because it's usually used to refer to some form of non-material reality. My own philosophy has nothing like that. But I value the pleasure of practicing, for lack of a better term, non-conceptual awareness... fully apprehending my aliveness within a magnificent universe. Awareness that neither I nor any other part of the universe can be fully contained within or signified by any concept or symbol, and on top of that, everything is changing and interacting-- but more than what I can put in words, because experiences are always more than concepts. Not anything that fits into a real Buddhist framework.

I think only material reality has this property. If the "true reality" were abstract/ideal, it would fully be encompassed by ideas and language-- and we know from experience that this isn't the case, that material reality is always more than anything we can say about it, because of subjectivity, qualia. For me, it's not that reality is transcendent of materiality but the very materiality itself which produces ineffability.

Metaphors can be useful as an evocative tool... but any attempt to literalize a metaphor about reality, to make the idea more important than material reality, takes the life out of things.

Whenever people start talking about piety, I feel a strong desire to goose them in the ribs. I feel like they are missing the point somehow. Metaphorically, they need a dose of a trickster god. Reality has too much of a ... playful feeling, maybe... for me to adopt piety as a goal. Imo there is enough humorousness in Epicurus' own words that I think he completely got that. Philodemus... I'm not so sure.