

Reverence and Awe In Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Don" of December 27, 2020 at 4:17 PM

[Matt](#) is absolutely correct that the singular θεός (accusative sing. θεόν) <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...057:entry=qeo/s> is used in a number of places in classical Epicurean texts just as the plural is used in other places. The singular should in no way make people think Epicurus or other writers were endorsing a monotheistic theology like Christianity, Judaism, etc. The capitalized God in translations is misleading.

The singular can also refer to "gods" in general or the concept of divinity.

One interesting idea in a Sedley essay (I *think*) I've read is that the singular was used to refer to each individual Epicurean's image of the divine. Each person creates their individual concept of a blessed and incorruptible "god" for themselves from the "images" available to him or her in their mind.