

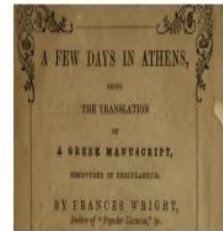
# AFDIA - Chapter Sixteen - Text and Discussion

Post by "Cassius" of May 15, 2022 at 7:55 PM

## A Few Days In Athens – Chapter Sixteen

### • Chapter 16 – Epicurus Addresses The Evils of Religion

- Epicurus asks why we doubt the power of science and says that man alone doubts the power of his senses and perverts himself to poison the sources of his happiness.
- The source of this error is in the overdevelopment of our imagination – and the first link in the erroneous chain of thought is RELIGION.
- Religion is the true dethroner of human virtue and the root of all evil and misery in the world. The world is full of religion and also full of misery and crime.
- Gods cannot be observed, and are of such nature that they can have no relevance to men.
- Religion is not merely useless, it is mischievous by its idle terrors, its false morality, its hypocrisy, its dogmatism, and its false threats, hopes, and promises.
- The common concepts of the gods are offensive to both men and the gods.
- Whether it is a god or a philosopher who speaks, the evidence of nature is that the message of both is "Enjoy, and be happy!"
- The good is all that brings you pleasure; the evil is that which must bring you pain, and in this there is no paradox, no hidden tables.
- Just as religion is unsound, so is the common understanding of morality and "virtue." Folly invented it, and knavery supports it. Let us arise, examine, judge, and be free!



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