

2022 Epicurus vs Buddhism Compare and Contrast Thread

Post by “Sid” of September 28, 2022 at 1:57 AM

Just one observation of mine on the topic of Buddhism. In the west where people are increasingly finding it difficult to believe in a theistic view of the universe, Buddhism seems to have become popular as several Buddhist teachers have popularised it as a rational and non-dogmatic way of life, rather than a religion per se. However this presentation of Buddhism is not entirely accurate. Though Buddhism doesn't have a creator entity Buddhist cosmology is full of supernatural beings. My own initial attraction to Buddhism was because I just couldn't rationally accept the teachings of Hinduism and the abrahamic faiths. The Buddha's exhortation to not accept things on faith and his encouragement of critical thinking really struck a chord with me. However as I dived deeper into it I found the same issues with Buddhism as with other faiths. For instance the concept of Jambudvipa and Mount Mandara go entirely against any modern scientific view. Also many sects of Buddhism do worship Buddhas for the sake of emancipation from this world...so even though a buddha isn't a creator deity we still have a system of faith and submission via prayer similar to other religions.