

Episode One Hundred Forty-Three - Diogenes of Oinoanda (Part 3) The Superiority of The Epicurean Viewpoint on "Gods"

Post by "Cassius" of October 11, 2022 at 6:05 AM

Several references we either mentioned in this episode or which are relevant:

1 - The Epicurus.net page on the history of the Epicurean school and its interactions with others: <https://epicurus.net/en/history.html>

2 - An article by Krystyna Stebnicka- "[Superstitious and Abominable....](#)" [Abstract: "A fragment of the Epicurean account of Diogenes of Oinoanda (2nd century AD), which was found in 1997, revealed a mention of the most superstitious and abominable Jews and Egyptians. The fragment is part of A Treatise on Physics and repeats the Epicurean view that gods do not interfere in people's lives. The aforementioned peoples serve the exemplification that the world of humans is separated from the world of the gods. Both expressions refer to the stereotypical perception of the Jews and Egyptians that is well-known from Greek-Roman literature. However, it seems that the way both ethne imagined their gods - in the form of animals (the Egyptians' view) and without any cultic statues (the Jews' view) - was meaningful for Diogenes, who like other Epicureans attached great importance to the worship of images of gods."]

3 -An article "[Ancient Greek and Egyptian Interactions](#)"

4 - Comment by Herodotus about the Egyptians ([Histories, 2:37](#)) "They are religious excessively beyond all other men, and with regard to this they have customs as follows:—they drink from cups of bronze and rinse them out every day, and not some only do this but all: they wear garments of linen always newly washed, and this they make a special point of practice: they circumcise themselves for the sake of cleanliness, preferring to be clean rather than comely. The priests shave themselves all over their body every other day, so that no lice or any other foul thing may come to be upon them when they minister to the gods; and the priests wear garments of linen only and sandals of papyrus, and any other garment they may not take nor other sandals; these wash themselves in cold water twice in a day and twice again in the night; and other religious services they perform (one may almost say) of infinite number. They enjoy also good things not a few, for they do not consume or spend anything of their own substance, but there is sacred bread baked for them and they have each great quantity of flesh of oxen and geese coming in to them each day, and also wine of grapes is given to them; but it is not permitted to them to taste of fish: beans moreover the Egyptians do not at all sow in their land, and those which they grow they neither eat raw nor boil for food; nay the priests do not endure even to look upon them, thinking this to be an unclean kind of pulse: and there is not one priest only for each of the gods but many, and of them one is chief-priest, and whenever a

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priest dies his son is appointed to his place."