

Knowledge of the Gods as "Manifest"

Post by "Cassius" of December 12, 2022 at 10:08 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

We don't - can't! - see the [Epicurean gods](#) with our physical eyes. The "truth" of their existence takes place entirely in our minds by reasoning through their existence through contemplation. But through that contemplation, Epicurus asserts that their existence is *εναργής* "clearly discernable to us / manifest to us in our minds."

Right - I understand what you are saying, but just for purposes of this conversation the second sentence there is the conclusion you are drawing. It may make sense, but it doesn't seem to entirely jibe with the references about receiving "images" of the gods, whether with the mind as a "suprasensory" faculty as Dewitt describes it as otherwise. And it may not also account for "anticipations" depending on what we believe those to be.

And of course the next step in that positioning is to take a position whether the "gods" exist ONLY as constructs of the mind or whether they also have independent physical existence in the manner described by Velleius. At the moment I can't remember your position on that (?) I presume you are siding with what we've often described as the "idealist" position vs the "realist" position (though I am not sure I really like those labels).