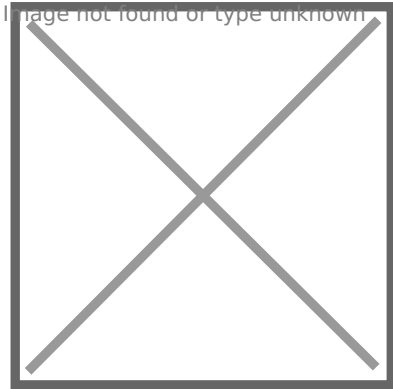


# Knowledge of the Gods as "Manifest"

Post by "Don" of December 13, 2022 at 7:47 AM

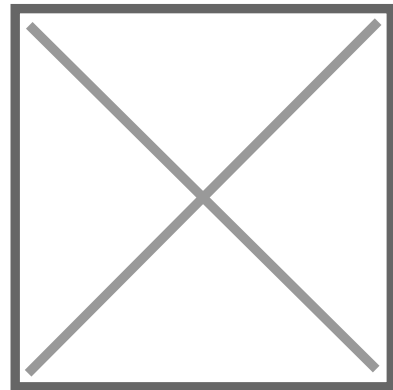
Here are some relevant papers:



[Theological Paradox in Epicurus](#)

Theological Paradox in Epicurus

[www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu)



[The Polytheism of the Epicureans](#)

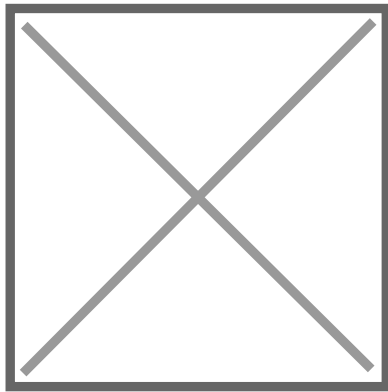
Epicureans have been branded atheists since antiquity, but although they might have held unorthodox beliefs about divinity, they did nevertheless believe in...

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## Quote

They did not believe in the Olympians that Hesiod and Homer had depicted, but anthropomorphic yet bizarre gods: although these were compounds of atoms, they were immortal, unlike any other compound in the Epicurean universe, and there was quite possibly an infinite host of such deities, all alike and all nameless. These gods were not considered figments of the imagination by the Epicureans, but as real, living

entities that actually existed, remotely, somewhere out there in the cosmos, doing very little aside from maintaining their supremely peaceful, painless, and tranquil dispositions. And these gods needed to be considered real in order to be genuine, ethical models for mankind to follow, which was their main function within the Epicurean world-view. The atoms of these gods, like everything in existence, were held to be perpetually in motion, constantly being emitted from their bodies as images that then travelled directly to the minds of mankind and thereby presented a true depiction of divinity, of peacefulness, and above all, of happiness, which would then be examples for individual Epicureans to follow on their individual journeys towards ἀταραξία, tranquillity.



#### [The Gods of Philodemus](#)

The Gods of Philodemus

[www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu)

Quote from Cicero On the nature of the gods 1.16

gods exist, because nature herself has imprinted a conception of them on the minds of all mankind. For what nation or what tribe of men is there which possesses untaught some [preconception] of the gods?12