

Metaphorically Picturing Epicurean Philosophy

Post by “Eikadistes” of January 11, 2023 at 10:52 AM

This approach demonstrates two, simultaneous, yet contradictory positions that I hold:

(1) We need avoid using metaphors and should strive to speak frankly.

(2) (*Yeah, right*). **Everything** is a metaphor.

I typically decide it is best to make responsible use of metaphors to which the author should be held accountable.

I suppose this is why Epicurus recognized that only a wise person is suitable to correctly deconstruct the metaphors of poetry. There is a fine line between using words that feel good but aren't really saying much and words that feel empty but are actually saying a tremendous amount of the reader would only exercise the patience required to understand.

The incidence of Lucretius writing spoonfuls of sugar to make the medicine of atomism go down comes to mind. We can also try using some of the metaphors Lucretius provides. *De Rerum Natura* seems to give Epicureans the OK to deify natural processes (like "Venus"), so we seem to have a green light to make liberal use of anthropomorphization.