

Epicureans and the Ancient Greek Gods (Imagery of "Gods" / "Gods Among Men")

Post by "Matt" of February 19, 2019 at 3:39 PM

Ok so I've been meditating on this for the last couple of days and I've come to a conclusion...

I agree with Nate that all anyone would be doing trying to capture an "ideal" Epicurean deity in canvas would be just reinventing the wheel. From a universal point of view, it's just not going to work or even be meaningful to the philosophy.

So here's what I've come up with...

I believe that Epicurean philosophy (in modern times) owes a serious explanation for their gods. My personal opinion is that the "metacosmic" deities are really, really difficult to maintain for the average adherent of the philosophy. So what I believe will work with the philosophy in modern times is a *very soft pantheism*.

This shifts all the focus off the idealized deities and puts it right back on *nature*. What is deity? It's nature. What would we use for images? Beautiful images of nature. The best sunsets, sunrises landscapes, seascapes, star fields and galaxies.

This soft pantheism differs from the more Stoic pandeism and panpsychism, that affirms that a divine mind is immanent and active in everything.

With a soft pantheism there is some wiggle room, not much for a faint agnostic flavoring of Providence. Enough to satisfy former religious theists and *not enough* to drive ANY dogmas or doctrines at all. Basically Providence in this scheme is the observable fact that that we have cosmic order that is conducive to life and self reflection as opposed to undefined molecular chaos swirling in the void.

So those are my thoughts on this...

The easiest transition for a theist to the Epicurean system is to promote nature oriented pantheism. No images of gods, just universally beautiful images of nature. Things that give pleasure and please the eye.