

Welcome Thinking Cat!

Post by “Cassius” of May 19, 2023 at 1:43 PM

[Quote from ThinkingCat](#)

Would that be accurate? Do you know why he believed in any gods at all? I am an atheist btw

Yes that statement is accurate with a caveat as to "the gods." Epicurus' working definition of "gods" does not include being supernatural, being omniscient, being omnipresent, being omnipotent, or most any of the other attributes that monotheism has taught us to believe.

It's better to say that Epicurus held that "gods" exist, by which he means beings which are deathless and who live in perfect happiness without pain, in the "intermundia" -- the space between the "worlds" - which has no contact with us here on earth.

As to why he believes in this type of god at all, the best reference for that is in [Cicero's "On the nature of the gods."](#) The answer seems tied to anticipations / prolepsis, but the sources are not clear. Per the same text there is probably also linkage to the fact that Epicurus believed that life exists throughout the universe, and that it is "equitably distributed," and that nature never makes only a single thing of a kind. When you add those things together with believing that the universe is infinitely old and infinitely wide (boundless), then you have the implication that Epicurus believed that we can reason our way to believing that there are living beings throughout the universe, some of whom have reached this state of deathlessness and perfect happiness.

Lots more we can add but this is a start!