

Which (Epicurean) God ...?

Post by “Pacatus” of May 28, 2023 at 5:30 PM

In Hinduism, there is the concept of “Ishtadevata”: your personally chosen or preferred god for devotion/worship/contemplation. Since the gods don’t tend to be jealous, that doesn’t mean you cannot honor other gods as well.

Given the Greek (and Greco-Roman) polytheism of Epicurus’ time – which really does not support relating to just an ambiguous, abstract notion of “divinity” (natural or supernatural) – and Epicurus’ encouragement to honor the gods ... which might you choose as your “ishtadevata”? (Not that I think you have to be limited to the Greco-Roman pantheons.)

~ ~ ~

I am generally drawn to Dionysus: god of wine and song, dance and ecstasy (etc.).

But, on reflection, I think I’ll go with **Gaia**: goddess of the earth – a primordial Greek divinity that represents all the gifts of the earth in which we live. And, I think, a goddess who personifies the naturality (and nature) in which we exist. Perhaps not so distant as the gods that might dwell in the cosmic interstices of distant worlds ...

As for some contemplative ritual or practice – I need to work on that.

Looking forward to seeing others’ thoughts ...



Image of The Earth Goddess at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.