

Plotinus and Epicurean Epistemology by Lloyd P. Gerson

Post by "Eoghan Gardiner" of May 31, 2023 at 5:01 AM

I have been heavily involved in catholic circles, it's an on going struggle for me. Neo Platonism is the singular most impactful philosophy on all the big theistic religions whether they want to admit it or not. Islam, Christians and Judaism.

One of the most insightful clues into the nature of these religions is the quote "Plato did more for Christianity than Jesus or Paul did"

The enneads are almost unreadable and when you do read them you realize you are reading a religious manuscript, Plotinus believed he could curse people with literal magic.

He believed that we as material beings were some of the lowest creatures in the emanation of the universe and the Good was a completely apophatic being (you can't even call it a being to be honest but for the sake of clarity) Plotinus is famous for when asked if they could make his sculpture "I am already entombed in this body, why must I have a stone image too"

What's funny is, all these religions influenced by Plotinus are secretly psychological hedonists, the "mystical experiences" (which I must admit I have experienced but I don't believe they are non physical but rather a physical phenomena). Are ultimately pleasurable, it's a preferable state of being that lasts a few seconds. The problem is, every major religion can produce these and even just not religious activities have been shown to produce them. We mustn't add religious dogma to strange phenomena that happen to us, we must look at it succulently.

Anyway that's probably my yearly ramble, hope all are doing well!