

Convincing Demonstrations of the God(s)

Post by “Don” of August 23, 2023 at 5:36 AM

Great find. I obviously need to try and get my hands on Obbink's translation of On Piety again.

I think your suggestion of this being a reaction to the Greeks' contact with other peoples' religions makes sense, although they would have been aware of the Egyptians and others since the time of Herodotus.

For additional context of that excerpt from Philodemus:

[DCLP/Trismegistos 62400 = LDAB 3563](#)

Column 23

P.Herc. 1077 col. 15

Engraved 1817-1822 by Giovanni Battista Casanova

[...]μενη[.] έναργει-

[. ἄ]γαμενοῦντος

[.....]να, καὶ πάν-

τας [κ]ατ' ἀνάγκας

5 [οἱ ταύτῳ]ν ἔγραψαν ἄ-

[ξίους] γε προαιρέ-

σ[εω]ς ἕνεκα θαυμά-

ζεσθαι καὶ μὴ διὰ τὴν

<ἄ>δυναμίαν ἀνοσίῳ[ς]

10 νομίζεσθαι· πάντας

δὲ ἀνθρώπους ὥ-

ρα{ι} λέγειν ἀνοσίους, ἔ-

πειδήπερ οὐδεὶς

εἰκνουμένας πε-

15 ρι τ[οῦ θ]εοῦς ὑπάρ - >
χε[ιν τὰς ἀπο]δείξεις
εὐπ[όρησ]εν· ὅμως
δὲ [σέβ]ονται πάν-
τε[ς εἰ μὴ παρ]άκοποι τι-
20 νε[ς αὐτούς, κα]θάπερ
ἡμ[εῖς:.....]κ[.]α
με[- ca.10 -]λιψαι
το[- ca.11 -]νη
τ[- ca.13 -]
25 κα[.]μεν[....]νωσ
[οὔ]τως [- ca.10 -]
[.]ω γ[- ca.13 -]
[οὔ]χ ὑπ[- ca.10 -]
[.]ο πρὸς τα[...] παρ

ΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΝ
ΤΑΣ ΑΝΤΑΝΑΓΚΑΣ
ΝΕΓΡΑΨΑΝΑ
ΓΕΤΡΟΔΙΡΕ
ΣΙ ΓΕΝΕΚΑΘΑΥΜΑ
ΖΕΘΑΙΚΑΙΜΗΔΙΑΤΗΝ
ΔΥΝΑΜΙΑΝΑΝΟCΙΟΙ
ΝΟΜΙΖΕΘΑΙ ΠΑΝΤΑΣ
ΔΕ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥCΩ
ΡΑΙΛΕΓΕΙΝΑΝΟCΙΟΥCΕ
ΠΕΙΔΗΠΕΡΟΥΔΕΙC
ΕΙΚΝΟΥΜΕΝΑC ΠΕ
ΡΙ ΤΩCΟΥCΥΠΑΡΥ
ΧΕΙΝΟC
ΕΥΓΕΝΟΜΩC
ΔΕ ΟΝΤΑΙ ΠΑΝ
ΤΕC ΑΚΟΠΟΙΤΙ
ΝΕΘΑΠΕΡ
ΗΜΕC ΚΑΙ
ΜΕΝΙΨΑΙ
ΤΟΝΗ
ΤΩC
ΚΑΙ ΜΕΝ ΝΩC
ΤΩC
ΩΓ
ΧΥΓ
ΟΠΡΟC ΤΑ ΠΑΡ

Edit: Oh, I forgot to add that Hiram posted several essays on On Piety, including:

[Reasonings about Philodemus' On Piety \(Part I\) | Society of Friends of Epicurus](#)

I don't necessarily agree with all his conclusions, but he also gives the full quote:

It would be fitting to describe all men as impious, inasmuch as no one has been prolific in finding convincing demonstrations for the existence of the gods; nevertheless all men, with the exception of some madmen, worship them, as do we.

Edit 2: Since everyone can see the holes, I want to give a better idea of the reconstruction of the text, so I'm going to replace the educated guesses of Obbink with O below...

[...]μενη[.] έναργει-

[.. O]γαμενοῦντος

[.....]να, καὶ πάν-

τας Οατ' ἀνάγκας

5 [ΟΟΟΟΟΟΟ]γ ἔγραψαν ἀ-

[ΟΟΟΟΟ] γε προαιρέ-

σ[ΟΟ]ς ἔνεκα θαυμά-

ζεσθαι καὶ μὴ διὰ τὴν

δυναμίαν ἀνοσίου[Ο]

10 νομίζεσθαι· πάντας

δὲ ἀνθρώπους ὤ-

ρα{ι} λέγειν ἀνοσίους, ἐ-

πειδήπερ οὐδεὶς

εἰκνουμένας πε-

15 ρὶ τ[ΟΟΟ]ξοῦς ὑπάρ - >

χε[ΟΟΟΟΟΟΟΟ]δείξεις

εὐπ[ΟΟΟΟ]ξεν· ὅμως

δὲ [ΟΟΟ]ονται πάν-

τε[ΟΟΟΟΟΟΟΟ]ἀκοποί τι-

20 νε[000000000]θάπερ
ήμ[000000000]κ[0]α
με[000000000]λιψαι
το[00000000000]νη
τ[000000000000000]
25 κα[.0]μεν[000]νωσ
[οὔ]τως [00000000000]
[.]ω γ[000000000000000]
[οὐ]χ ὑπ[00000000000]
[00.]ο πρὸς τα[000] παρ