

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

Post by "Matt" of March 25, 2019 at 4:35 PM

Oscar,

I totally understand your perspective. Although I think we have very different expectations from our healthcare providers?.

We clearly disagree on this point:

That I strongly stand by the idea that the gods being characterized as benign is fundamentally presupposed and the reasoning circular. My reasoning is that since there is no evidence or precedent for either the gods existing or whether they are supernatural or natural, there is no way that Epicurus can say anything about them unless he had some very intimate contact with them. No special knowledge of hypothetical entities could ever be attained to the degree of specificity as Epicurus described them to be from pure abstract reasoning.

I believe Epicurus was a powerful and influential philosopher. In my personal pantheon of philosophers Epicurus and Epictetus are filed under "E". The ideas of Epicurus like all philosophers, ancient and modern will be criticized posthumously over and over again. I don't hold a special or hostile critique of him any more than I do of Pythagoras or Plotinus, they and their ideas are products of the times they lived.

I like to evaluate all claims to a certified knowledge of the universe's and my own *raison d'être*. Epicurus like many others made certified claims, so I pry deep into those ideas. That's why we are all here discussing this philosophy. We all seek out knowledge and truth.