

One of the Greatest Epicureans of All?

Post by “Cassius” of February 9, 2024 at 10:08 AM

[Quote from Martin](#)

Materialism and monism should be compatible. According to Epicurus, the soul is closely associated with the body. This is monism, too, in my understanding. There may be other aspects of monism which are not directly related to Epicurus' philosophy.

Yes it would be useful to get a clear fix on Epicurus and monism. While Epicurus would appear to clearly hold that the soul/spirit is physical, this group of "monists" below is far from Epicurean. It is tempting to say that while both have materialism in common, Atomism is the OPPOSITE of monism, with many and varied implications of that difference. Might it be possible that an equal or better case could be made that Spinoza was among the greatest STOICS of them all?

[Monistic philosophers](#)

Pre-Socratic[\[edit\]](#)

While the lack of information makes it difficult in some cases to be sure of the details, the following [pre-Socratic philosophers](#) thought in monistic terms:[\[25\]](#)

- [Thales](#): Water
- [Anaximander](#): [Apeiron](#) (meaning 'the undefined infinite'). Reality is some, one thing, but we cannot know what.
- [Anaximenes of Miletus](#): Air
- [Heraclitus](#): Change, symbolized by fire (in that everything is in constant flux).
- [Parmenides](#): Being or Reality is an unmoving perfect sphere, unchanging, undivided.[\[26\]](#)

Post-Socrates[\[edit\]](#)

- Neopythagorians such as [Apollonius of Tyana](#) centered their cosmologies on the [Monad](#) or One.
- [Stoics](#) taught that there is only one substance, identified as God.[\[27\]](#)
- Middle Platonism under such works as those by [Numenius](#) taught that the Universe emanates from the Monad or One.
- [Neoplatonism](#) is monistic. [Plotinus](#) taught that there was an ineffable transcendent god, 'The One,' of which subsequent realities were emanations. From The One emanates the Divine Mind ([Nous](#)), the Cosmic Soul ([Psyche](#)), and the World ([Cosmos](#)).