

# Episode 227 - Cicero's OTNOTG - 02 - Velleius Begins His Attack On Traditional Views Of The Gods

Post by “Little Rocker” of May 20, 2024 at 11:15 AM

## [Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Two possibilities:

- The writings explaining this have been lost.
- Epicurus may have allowed multiple ways to "consider the gods" as long as you foremost believed that they do not intervene or interact with humans.

I think the first is definitely right and the second also seems right to me. We don't have what he wrote about this question, but he wrote something for sure. And my hunch is that his theological project was primarily negative (i.e. aimed at removing false beliefs about the gods rather than at developing a worked-out theology). It could very well be that his positive theology was something like--believe whatever you want about the gods so long as it is consistent with all the other stuff we accept.

I'll have to think more about Captain Kirk, but it seems to me that if Epicurus himself (or let's just say 'the sage') thought we have every reason to use scientific innovation to diminish pain and increase pleasure, then emulating the attitudes and efforts of the sage would again suit the aspirational purpose.

To tie those two thoughts together, and if I'm understanding Kalosyni roughly correctly--we need to eliminate false beliefs about the gods, but it remains unclear whether the gods themselves play an essential role that can't be fulfilled by thinking of the best way to live as a human being. There's a paper on 'Epicurean Immortality' I once read that I'm going track down and revisit.