

# Give Us an Example of God!

Post by "Eikadistes" of July 10, 2024 at 8:57 AM

## [Quote from Julia](#)

There are no outside persons inside my mind like that, so I would not expect to at some point have an experience of this kind. For me, death was different every time:

It was terror and fright.

It was despair and frantic effort.

It was abandonment and sadness.

It was erratic chaos and powerlessness.

It was relief and release in death by a thousand cuts.

[...]

And with that little opening speech, I circle back to the gods: I don't think near-death experiences are very consistent, and I think they very much depend on who you ask and what they've experienced: pharmaceuticals, social context, age (especially child vs teenager/adult), type of survival situation, cultural backdrop. With the experiences so different, can we really conceive of them as to "pertaining to gods"? [...]

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These are all good points, and to reinforce @Root304 's observation, psychedelics are inconsistent and potential causes of more pain than pleasure. Additionally, all of this is dependent on our internal ecosystems, so reliably re-producing the experience of the divine is not universal with any one substance ... still, I can't identify with "the experience of the divine" without drugs.

That's just where I'm at with my personal experience. I've never seen blissful people in dreams that do not correspond with mortals that I have met in my life. (But I'd really like to!)

Right now, at best, as far as I can determine, (1) Epicurus said that the gods were evident because he became aware that Indians prayed to gods but separate from the Greeks (via Pyrrho through Nausiphanes), (2) His suggestion that piety comes from dreams is just a general way of saying "religion is social construct that evolved from basic human behaviors", (3) Hemarkhos, Demetrios, Philodemos, and Lucretius making indications that the gods breathe and converse is not a preconception, but inductive reasoning that happens to be coherent with the preconception, and (4) the actual gods don't really exist except as concepts in our minds.

Eh, I don't know. I really want to dream about Zeus once and put an end to it.