

Epicureanism and Scientism: What are the main differences?

Post by “Little Rocker” of July 24, 2024 at 11:54 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Would you not add the important caveat that he would recommend not getting invested in finding "the" actual explanation when you know in advance that that isn't going to be possible due to the lack of evidence?

Yeah, I'm not really opposed to that caveat, and I don't like it when people claim that the *only* reason Epicurus cares about science is whenever it helps us get rid of fear of the gods and death. But I also think he seems pretty clear about what he considers 'most important' scientifically (namely things that help us psychologically and practically). And it strikes me that he so often treats the multiple explanations as equally compelling. It's like you might want him to say, 'but this entirely material account of lunar eclipses seems a bit more likely than the one where the moon has a bright and a dark side.'

I'm also somewhat sympathetic to people who point out that blocking multiple explanations in the context of matter and motion seems ad hoc when more than one material account is consistent with the phenomena, even if it has turned out to be wrong.