

Epicureanism as the spiritual essence or 'religion' of an entire community

Post by “Eikadistes” of March 27, 2025 at 9:50 AM

This statement comes from Book 2: *"Theodorus did all he could to overturn people's beliefs about the gods, and we came across a book of his entitled On Gods, which is not easy to dismiss; they say Epicurus took from it most of what he said."* (Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers 2.97)

The last line, *"they say Epicurus took from it most of what he said..."*, to me, means that Epicurus was using *On Gods* as source material against which to argue, **not** material to support.

Theodorus' theological propositions were incompatible with Epicurus, as shown in [Menoikeus](#):

"First and foremost consider the deity⁶ an incorruptible and blessed figure as the common conception of a deity prescribes; attribute to him nothing either hostile to incorruptibility or alien to blessedness rather believe anything about him that is able to preserve his incorruptibility and blessedness"

"Since it is better to comply with the myths of the deities than it is to become a slave of physical inevitability; for indeed subscribing in earnest prayer to an expectation of dignity from the deities [encourages agency], but she has not [once] been moved by prayers to [necessity](#)."