

Must an Epicurean believe in gods?

Post by "Rolf" of April 15, 2025 at 5:24 PM

Hey folks!

Is it essential for one who follows (classical) epicurean philosophy to believe in the existence of (non-interventional) gods existing in the "space between worlds", in the same way that it is essential to hold a materialistic view of reality?

My gut tells me it's not so important, since gods play no role in epicurean cosmology and ethics. That said, Epicurus didn't deny the existence of such gods (as far as I'm aware). Do we disregard this as a mere product of its time or does it play some vital role within epicurean philosophy?