

# Must an Epicurean believe in gods?

**Post by “Rolf” of April 16, 2025 at 3:53 AM**

You know, my issue here might be that I’m applying my modern view of the idea of “gods” onto Epicurus when he talks about gods. Gods were of course a major aspect of the society he lived in, and it makes sense that he would be required to start from the societal perspective that gods do exist and they have xyz characteristics. He wasn’t living in a society where secularity and atheism is assumed like many of us do today.

So perhaps it’s best for me to drop my modern understanding of the term “gods” when I read what Epicurus and his fellow philosophers have to say on this point. He was reacting to the contemporary understanding of “gods” by redefining what they are and what they are not.

I’m still hazy on this. I hope I’m explaining myself clearly.