

The Relationship of Happiness and Blessedness

Post by “Pacatus” of July 10, 2026 at 12:17 PM

[Kalosyni](#) Thanks for that considered response.

I don't fear death – or gods. Epicurean philosophy certainly has been a support for that. But I don't believe in gods (supernatural or natural) – so, for me, whatever “godlike” might mean is a human (imaginative) projection; and is extremely variable according to culture, religion, philosophy, personal imaging. I don't object to any of that; it can be useful. But it has no other meaning to me.

I think that Epicurus was probably a theological realist: he did believe there were gods, evidenced via prolepsis. I do not.

So, to the extent that “blessedness” (makarios) is related to god-likeness, it is (to me) a projection from human imagination; an ideal. (And imagination is a valid and powerful human resource! I'm a poet, remember? 😊 But it's also a powerful resource for science, as I think Einstein said.) And even if not related to an idea of god-likeness, it's still such a projection: as the kind of ideal (goal) we imagine (such as cooking the perfect meal) in order to progress. I affirm that kind of use as well.

But “blessedness” is not one that works for me either way. Perhaps I just don't understand it the way that those for whom it is helpful do. So, I just let it go (past tense there) – along with the gods.

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Addendum: I have a very large, framed print of Epicurus in the Garden by Genevra Catalano on the wall directly above my desk. That represents a kind of ideal (reminder) that I can contemplate, in my imagination. I have others.