

# Discussion of the Society of Epicurus' 20 Tenets of 12/21/19

Post by "Cassius" of January 9, 2020 at 5:22 AM

**Oscar:** As to whether Epicurus was a deist of course we again need to be sure that everyone agrees with what that means. If a Deist has to be like Thomas Paine and others of the 18th century clockmaker model - where a supernatural god created the universe and then stepped back to participate no further, I think Epicurus likely has to be ruled out from being in that category too, since he was adamant that the universe existed eternally and was never created supernaturally.

Nor would he fit into an "agnostic" category if that means "I don't know." However there is a section in *A Few Days In Athens* where Frances Wright seems to me to assert that she thought Epicurus fit that category, but she might have been referring his "I don't know" to specific gods like Zeus or Venus. Maybe if you define gods in the Greek model and are referring to his view of specific Greek god personalities, then maybe it would be proper to say that he was "atheist as to Zeus" or "agnostic as to Venus or Hera."

**Elayne:** I am open to the idea that times have changed and that I am a small minority, but at least in the past I used to think that the interest in life in outer space was widespread because so many people were interested in "space exploration" fiction. This might be a cultural or individual thing that ebbs and flows. It would be interesting (for me anyway) to try to get a grip on how much of a concern or interest "questions of life other than on earth" is to other people (in general, not just to us here, although that would be interesting too) and break down into age, culture, sex, education, etc.

I suspect it's probably not a coincidence that the "earliest known work of science fiction" is Lucian's "A True Story" which wikipedia says is "the earliest known work of fiction to include travel to outer space, alien lifeforms, and interplanetary warfare."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_True\\_Story](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_True_Story)