

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

Post by "Hiram" of January 9, 2020 at 6:43 PM

[Quote from Oscar](#)

If it's true that Epicurus rejected atheists and atheism generally. How then can you, *Hiram*, claim Atheism as part of the Epicurean tradition...

Because so many those who identify as Epicureans today call themselves atheists 😊 and because, as I've said before, I see Epicurean philosophy as an evolving, living tradition rather than an irrelevant study of a history of itself.

We are the ones who are creating Gardens, communities, or circles of friends to study Epicureanism for our own pleasure and for our own sake. It is we who must carry the tradition forward. Epicurus isn't here. It is we who have to decide whether we will subject atheists to the treatment that Epicurus subjected atheists to--however they are defined... (or, for that matter, subject monotheistic Deists like Thomas Jefferson to excommunication).

And concerning "Friends of Epicurus"--here I must cite Michel Onfray's "*counter-history of philosophy from the perspective of the friends of Epicurus and the enemies of Plato*" ... (he is also the author of a "Manual of Atheology"). We're not a dead intellectual tradition. There are Epicurean friends still having conversations in many languages.

[Quote from Elayne](#)

Hiram, I am not atheist in regards to the type of beings Epicurus referred to. I am atheist in terms of the supernatural, which Epicurus was also. If I have been unclear on that, I am surprised. Just like with the word atoms, the word atheist no longer means exactly the same thing as it did in Epicurus' time.

So you subscribe to the realist interpretation? You believe with certainty that immortal, blissful gods with bodies made of particles, exist? It didn't seem to me that you held that view. It seemed like you were agnostic about the [Epicurean gods](#) (or withholding your opinion until evidence is presented) and atheistic about the monotheistic god.