

# "The Polytheism of the Epicureans" by Paul T. M. Jackson

Post by "Godfrey" of October 2, 2020 at 9:13 PM

This paper hit my inbox this week, and it's a worthwhile read presenting a case for the "realist" interpretation of the [Epicurean gods](#). It also has some discussion of the proleptses, as is appropriate when considering the gods:

## [The Polytheism of the Epicureans](#)

However the reason that I'm posting this is because of some of the references included. On pages 30-31, he includes the text of a letter purportedly written by Epicurus and found in the Oxyrhynchus Papyri [([wikipedia](#)) and ([google books](#))], with which I'm totally unfamiliar. The source of his reference is an essay by A.J. Festugière, 'Épicure et ses Dieux,' in a 1946 collection *Mythes et Religions*, edited by P.E. Couchoud, publisher Presse Universitaires de France-Paris. Apparently this is translated into English in *Epicurus and His Gods* by C.W. Chilton.

In addition to thoughts on the article, is anybody familiar with any of these sources? I'm curious where else they might lead....