

# Reverence and Awe In Epicurean Philosophy

Post by “Susan Hill” of October 23, 2020 at 4:51 PM

What if we were to run with this idea of “awe”... Elayne feels awe at a new-born human life, a music lover feels awe at a new Hans Zimmer orchestral piece, Carl Sagan feels awe for the cosmos, a Southerner feels awe the first time she sees the Aurora Borealis, a young man is awed by a beautiful woman, a philosopher is awed by her first reading of The Letter to Menoecius, a physicist is awed quantum entanglement equations, I am awed by my lucid dreams.... What do all these things have in common? We are not awed by the simple sensory stimulus sans some sort of comprehension of those stimuli. It is something ABOUT the babe, or the music, or the aurora, or the philosophical idea that result in the feeling. What is that something that is common to all these experiences?

My Aunt and Uncle are vocal atheists who hold up Carl Sagan as their exemplar of an atheist. So I was surprised when I heard him in a documentary talk about the Cosmos in a fashion that I could only call deeply spiritual. I think he had something in common with people who actually call themselves spiritual or even religious. I have ideas as to what that commonality is, but what do you think?

Re Nietzsche, I have never been in awe of myself... Is that unusual?