

Reverence and Awe In Epicurean Philosophy

Post by “Elayne” of October 25, 2020 at 11:46 AM

At any rate, I do not see a correlation between the "blessed beings" Epicurus described and the frequent religious intuition of connecting with a vast intelligence "behind" the inanimate parts of the universe. Epicurus goes to great trouble to assure his students that material phenomena do not require a coordinating intelligence or any type of divine intervention to happen. And we have just finished a section of Lucretius where he gives his reasoning as to why the "soul" cannot persist outside the body-- in the same way, I cannot imagine him thinking the mind or soul of a material pleasure-filled being would be somehow in contact with us. Perceiving an "image" through the prolepsis is an interesting idea, and it is a bit hard to know exactly what he means by it-- there's room for different opinions, and I don't want to hold him to mine. I do think I have reason to think he didn't propose these blessed beings were communicating with us mind to mind.