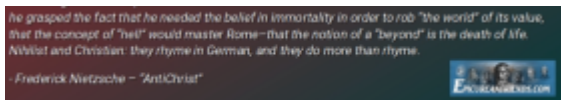


# "Nihilist and Christian - They Rhyme In German...." From Nietzsche's Antichrist Reference to Epicurus

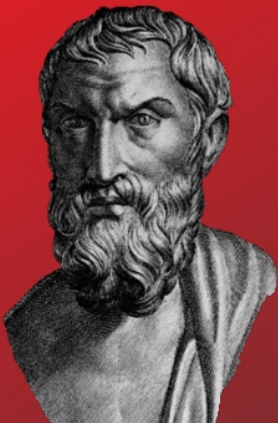
Post by "Cassius" of July 29, 2021 at 3:21 PM

[Martin](#) - Today I was using this graphic noticed near the end where Nietzsche says "Nihilist and Christian - they rhyme in German...." I wonder if, when you have time, you might comment on that for us. I presume it is true if we find exactly the right words, but I am thinking it is possible that we might learn something from comparing the root words to each other to see if it appears that the two words don't just rhyme, but arose in a similar context or have other parallels. Obviously not a big issue but if you have time at some point would appreciate your thought!



Full graphic:



## What Epicurus Made War Upon ... Concepts As Black As Hell



*The sneakishness of hypocrisy, the secrecy of the conventicle, concepts as black as hell, such as the sacrifice of the innocent, the unio mystica in the drinking of blood, above all, the slowly rekindled fire of revenge, of Chandala revenge—all that sort of thing became master of Rome: the same kind of religion which, in a pre-existent form, Epicurus had combatted. One has but to read Lucretius to know what Epicurus made war upon — not paganism, but "Christianity," which is to say, the corruption of souls by means of the concepts of guilt, punishment and immortality. — He combatted the subterranean cults, the whole of latent Christianity—to deny immortality was already a form of genuine salvation.*

*Epicurus had triumphed, and every respectable intellect in Rome was Epicurean—when Paul appeared. . . Paul, the Chandala hatred of Rome, of "the world," in the flesh and inspired by genius—the Jew, the eternal Jew par excellence. . . . What he saw was how, with the aid of the small sectarian Christian movement that stood apart from Judaism, a "world conflagration" might be kindled; how, with the symbol of "God on the cross," all secret seditions, all the fruits of anarchistic intrigues in the empire, might be amalgamated into one immense power. "Salvation is of the Jews."—Christianity is the formula for exceeding and summing up the subterranean cults of all varieties, that of Osiris, that of the Great Mother, that of Mithras, for instance: in his discernment of this fact the genius of Paul showed itself. His instinct was here so sure that, with reckless violence to the truth, he put the ideas which lent fascination to every sort of Chandala religion into the mouth of the "Saviour" as his own inventions, and not only into the mouth—he made out of him something that even a priest of Mithras could understand. . . This was his revelation at Damascus: he grasped the fact that he needed the belief in immortality in order to rob "the world" of its value, that the concept of "hell" would master Rome—that the notion of a "beyond" is the death of life. Nihilist and Christian: they rhyme in German, and they do more than rhyme.*

*-Frederick Nietzsche - "AntiChrist"*



## Post by “Don” of July 29, 2021 at 3:50 PM

Quote

Nihilist und Christ: das reimt sich, das reimt sich nicht bloss. The Antichrist (1888)

They don't rhyme in the original. Perhaps, he was talking metaphorically. That would be my guess.

Although, I guess they do end in -ist so they sort of rhyme.

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## Post by “Cassius” of July 29, 2021 at 4:04 PM

Thank you for finding that so we don't have to search it out! I guess we can ask Martin to pronounce them both for us and maybe we'll hear something we don't expect. My German is almost as bad as my Greek 😊

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## Post by “Martin” of July 30, 2021 at 10:54 AM

I will pronounce them during our Sunday call.

In German, -ist is a a very common ending for a person who belongs to a particular group or has a particular characteristic, similar to scientist, physicist, chemist and so on in English, whereby, however, the German words for those have the in German more common ending -er for members of a profession.

Nietzsche's rhyme is there but it is nothing deeper than just a pun.