

Article: "Was Gassendi an Epicurean?"

Post by "Kalosyni" of March 3, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Here is an article regarding Gassendi:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/27744965>

Post by "Cassius" of March 3, 2025 at 7:14 PM

Author's final paragraphs are ambiguous, but his answer early in the paper (with which I agree) is clear: No.

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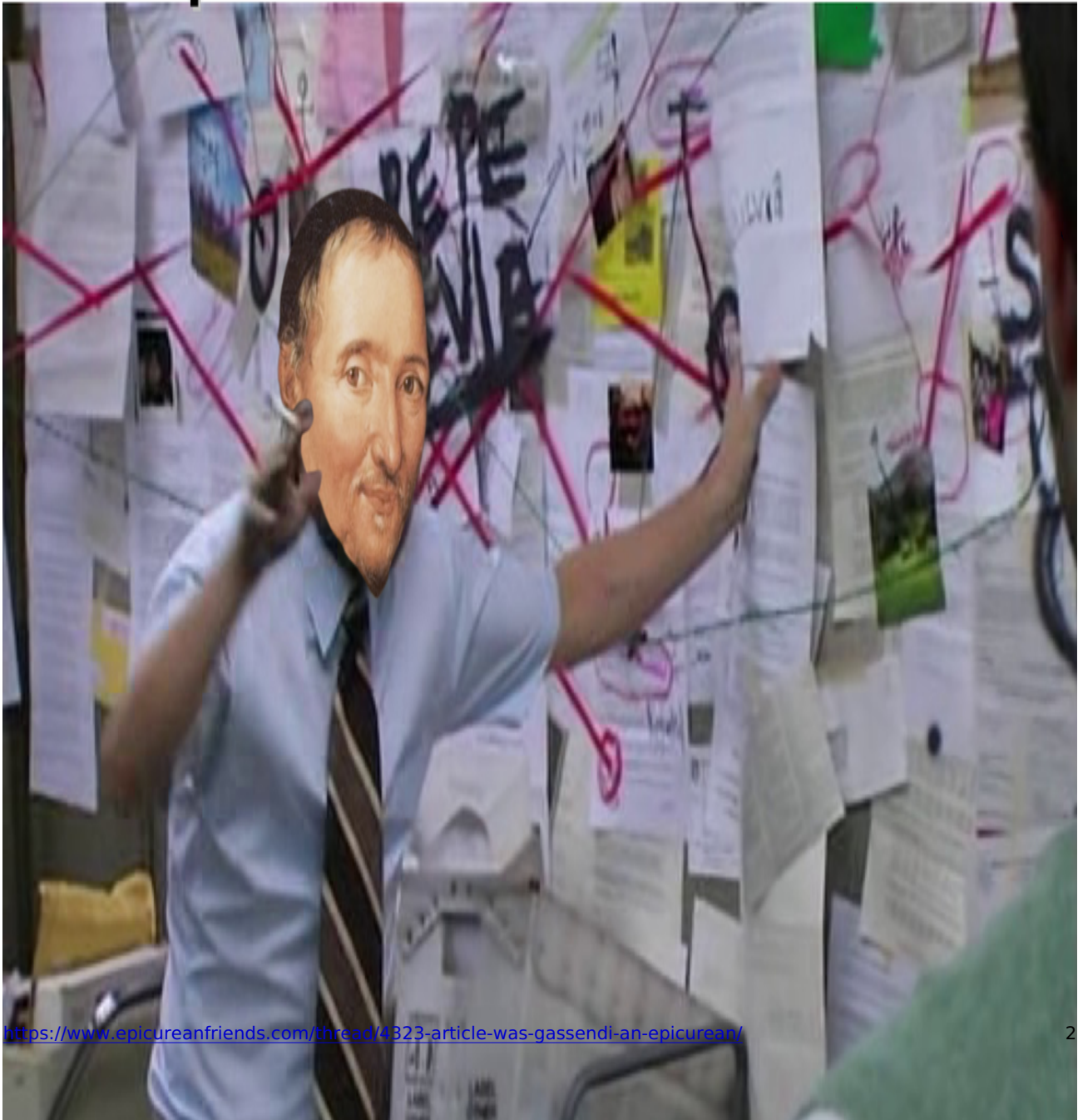
HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY QUARTERLY

of the (Epicurean) materialist "giants" against the theistic "gods" (represented by, e.g., Descartes) in his early modern replay of Plato's *Battle of the Gods and Giants*.⁹

But Gassendi himself would be horrified at not being placed on the side of the gods in Lennon's battle. Gassendi repudiates the main tenets of Epicureanism: their conception of gods, and denial of creationism, providence, teleological explanations, and human immortality. Although he accepts in a modified form the physics of atoms, empiricist epistemology, and emphasis on pleasure and freedom in ethics, still they stand diametrically opposed, from the standpoint of what both Epicurus and Gassendi acknowledge to be all-important.

Post by "Eikadistes" of March 4, 2025 at 8:09 AM

Pierre Gassendi trying to reconcile Christianity with Epicurean atomism...



Post by “Cassius” of March 4, 2025 at 8:57 AM

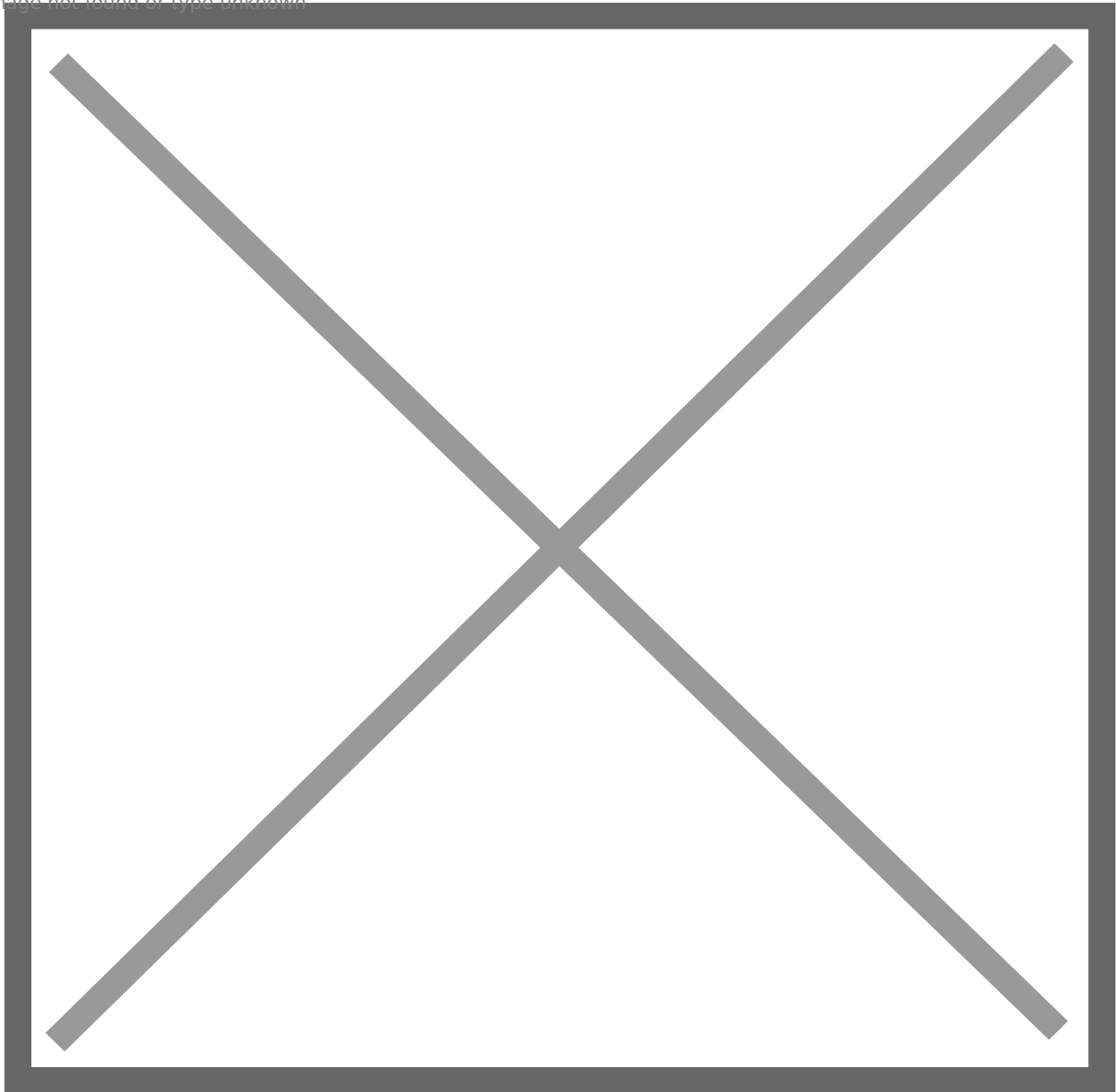
Ilkka V. and I put a lot of effort into attempting to make a digital readable copy of Gassendi's work on Epicurus, but the end result was probably not worth the effort.

No doubt there remain a lot of interesting issues to explore, including (1) following the threads of Gassendi's influence on others, and (2) seeing if Gassendi referenced sources that were available too him but not to us today.

I've placed a copy of the latest transcription work here, if anyone decides at any point to explore it further. The text is a mess and needs lots of work, but it should be largely readable in parallel with the PDF when there are obvious errors.

I would recommend that anyone working on this use the transcription as a guide to the contents but ultimately link to and reference [the PDF at Archive.org](https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4323-article-was-gassendi-an-epicurean/).

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[Public Copy of Gassendi's Epicurus - His Life And Doctrine](#)

The scanned PDF from which we are working is here, where it can be downloaded in PDF format:...

docs.google.com