

The "Natural and Necessary List" Question

Post by "Don" of August 20, 2021 at 11:18 AM

"Hence Epicurus refuses to admit any necessity for argument or discussion to prove that..."

Here's the original Latin:

[itaque negat opus esse ratione neque disputatione](#),...

I think it's interesting that the exact word "necessity" is not used there. Instead, Cicero/Torquatus is using "opus" which (if you click the link for the definition) is normally "work, labor" but in the abstract sense can mean "need, necessity" I suppose "something that must be worked/labored for." So, I'm seeing that as Epicurus saying, according to this, "I refuse to put the work into making an argument (ratione) or having a discussion (disputatione) [about something that is SO self-evident] as..."pleasure is desirable and pain to be avoided'."

If students in later days wanted to do it, that was up to them to battle the Peripatetics and Stoics, but Epicurus was having none of it from my reading here.

Someone with better Latin skills than I (i.e., everyone), please feel free to weigh in!