

Reflections on chapter 11

Post by "SimonC" of January 28, 2022 at 5:01 PM

What an interesting chapter! I was not very familiar with this material before. I wonder how much of it is explicit in the sources and how much is DeWitt extrapolating though.

Particularly impressive points as I understood them:

- The need for soul atoms (ie the nervous system, sort of) to *interact* with the body to give rise to sensation. This makes sense to me even though it is apparently a controversial issue in current philosophy. But it does seem to follow from the physics.
- The automatic vs intentional thinking, this is very perceptive psychology and also makes a lot of sense. It brings to mind the later [dual process theory](#).
- The courtroom analogy. Is this entirely DeWitt? Again very clarifying and brings context to "[all sensations are true](#)".

I did not entirely grasp why it should be worse to think that Acheron might exist than to be sure that it does.

I also wonder what evidence could have led Epicurus to claim that the rational soul is situated in the chest. The Stoics apparently also thought this so perhaps it was a cultural idea? Or because you die if you get stabbed there?