

Episode One Hundred Forty-Five - Part 01 (Chapter 1 of Epicurus And His Philosophy)

Post by "Joshua" of October 22, 2022 at 10:42 PM

thoreauspyglass.jpg known

Henry David Thoreau's spyglass, Concord Museum.

Thoreau on the Synoptic View--literally, things "Seen together" in their proper relation.

Many a man, when I tell him that I have been on to a mountain, asks if I took a glass with me. No doubt, I could have seen further with a glass, and particular objects more distinctly—could have counted more meeting-houses; but this has nothing to do with the peculiar beauty and grandeur of the view which an elevated position affords. It was not to see a few particular objects, as if they were near at hand, as I had been accustomed to see them, that I ascended the mountain, but to see an infinite variety far and near in their relation to each other, thus reduced to a single picture. The facts of science, in comparison

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with poetry, are wont to be as vulgar as looking from the mountain with a telescope. It is a counting of meeting-houses.¹