

The Atomic Billiard Board, or: Understanding the Swerve to Mechanistic Determinism

Post by "Cassius" of November 11, 2022 at 7:04 PM

Just read the post. Excellent work Charles and I look forward to reading more. The whole subject of why these thinkers adopted so much of Epicurus' viewpoint on atomism but rejected his view of the swerve is highly interesting and a topic worthy of its own discussion. If they were willing to risk the wrath of the church on atomism, why not go all the way and embrace the swerve too?

I have some speculation on that, relating to epistemology and Epicurus' views on the primacy of the senses rather than "logic" (which they may have found even hotter to handle than the supernatural gods issue) but it's only speculation. I hope you will find good references that will help make the answer more clear.