

# The Epicurean Alternative to "Cogito Ergo Sum" Would Be?

Post by "Cassius" of February 2, 2023 at 10:36 AM

Just a passing thought this morning. We've discussed several times on the podcast the famous statement by Descartes, and I see that in 2017 I set up a primitive graphic:


**Use Your Mind To Create Your Own Reality?**

I think, therefore I am ....  
When I imagine a triangle, even though such a figure may exist nowhere in the world except in my thought, indeed may never have existed, there is nonetheless a certain nature or form, or particular essence, of this figure that is immutable and eternal, which I did not invent, and which in no way depends on my mind.  
- Renee Descartes

**Or Use Your Mind To Grasp The Reality Nature Gave You?**

I feel: therefore I exist. I feel bodies which are not myself - there are other existencies then. I call them matter. I feel them changing place. This gives me motion. Where there is an absence of matter, I call it void, or nothing, or immaterial space. On the basis of sensation, of matter and motion, we may erect the fabric of all the certainties we can have or need.  
- Thomas Jefferson

*Jefferson got it right because he followed Epicurus, and Epicurus said:  
"If you fight against all your sensations, you will have no standard to which to refer, and thus no means of judging even those sensations which you claim are false."*

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It hasn't occurred to me to ask:

(1) How closely do we think Epicurus would endorse Jefferson's formulation? and

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2871-the-epicurean-alternative-to-cogito-ergo-sum-would-be/?postID=22382#post22382>

(2) If we were looking for an Epicurean Latin response to cogito ergo sum, what would be the best formulation of Jefferson's first sentence? (maybe it should be considered whether to use \_\_\_\_\_ ergo sum vs \_\_\_\_\_ ergo \_\_\_(exist)\_\_\_\_\_

Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cogito,\\_ergo\\_sum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cogito,_ergo_sum)