

Episode 227 - Cicero's OTNOTG - 02 - Velleius Begins His Attack On Traditional Views Of The Gods

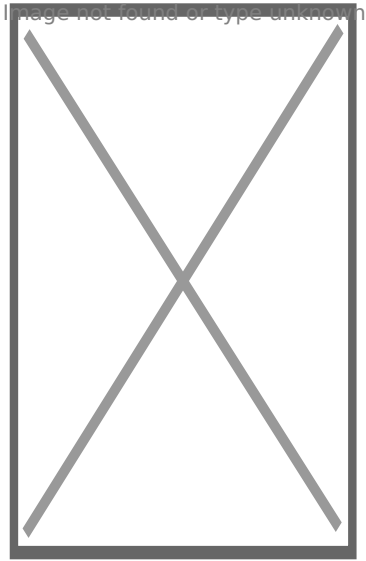
Post by “Don” of June 11, 2024 at 10:13 PM

For what it's worth, here's a section from *The faith of Epicurus* by Benjamin Farrington (1967)

in the acquisition of knowledge.

The interpretation of the second criterion, 'anticipations', presents far more difficulty. The best and most up-to-date discussion of what has been a controversial subject will be found in Kleve's *Gnosis theon*. I adopt his conclusions. 'Anticipations' may be defined as general ideas, the mental equipment by which we organize and interpret our sensations. Our difficulty in understanding the term arises from our confusing it with the Cartesian notion of Innate Ideas, which is itself derived from Plato. But Epicurus is not trying to tell us that we are born with a collection of general ideas which precede our sensory experience and of which we are 'reminded' by our sense impressions. This view is inconsistent with his thought. The explanation lies elsewhere – in the biological way of thinking which he had acquired from Aristotle. Man, Epicurus believed, is born with certain specifically human characteristics which include the gift of reason. Sensation, which we share with the animals, has no mental content; it is, as the Greeks said, *alogos*. But sensation, with man, gives rise to the mental activity of sorting out, comparing, arranging, his sensations. Hence arise the general ideas to which we attach names. They are gradually acquired as the result of repeated sensations; but, once acquired, they exist in our minds as ready-made categories for arranging the data of experience. In this sense they are 'anticipations'. 'Anticipations' do not precede all experience; but they do precede all systematic observation and scientific discussion, and all rational practical activity. Again they denote the activity of the subject in the acquisition of knowledge.

We come now to the third criterion, the feelings (*pathē*)



[The faith of Epicurus : Farrington, Benjamin, 1891- : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

xiii, 160 p. ; 22 cm
archive.org

Available to read with free account