

Episode 242 - Cicero's OTNOTG 17 - Is Truth A Matter Of Logic?

Post by "Cassius" of August 21, 2024 at 11:08 AM

If anyone happened to listen to this episode for the first hour or so that it was up, I apologize because I had to do some supplemental editing. I think the problem is now largely corrected.

The issue came about because of the continuing trouble i have fixing a meaning on the underlined part of the following quote from Dlogenes Laertius:

Quote

[32] Nor is there anything which can refute the sensations. For a similar sensation cannot refute a similar because it is equivalent in validity, nor a dissimilar a dissimilar, for the objects of which they are the criteria are not the same; nor again can reason, for all reason is dependent upon sensations; nor can one sensation refute another, for we attend to them all alike. Again, the fact of apperception confirms the truth of the sensations. And seeing and hearing are as much facts as feeling pain.

I have a tendency to say (and I am afraid I may have written in the past) that the repetition of receiving the same perception in the same way over time 'confirms' prior perceptions. More reflection causes me to think that's exactly the wrong way to say it. As I see it today, it is repeated observations that confirm "opinions," which we make from the perceptions, but the perceptions themselves are not "confirming" each other. As Lucretius says in Book 4 in the part underlined below:

Quote

[478] You will find that the concept of the true is begotten first from the senses, and that the senses cannot be gainsaid. For something must be found with a greater surety, which can of its own authority refute the false by the true. Next then, what must be held to be of greater surety than sense? Will reason, sprung from false sensation, avail to speak against the senses, when it is wholly sprung from the senses? For unless they are true, all reason too becomes false. Or will the ears be able to pass judgement on the eyes, or touch on the ears? or again will the taste in the mouth refute this touch; will the nostrils disprove it, or the eyes show it false? It is not so, I trow. For each sense has its faculty set apart, each its own power, and so it must needs be that we perceive in one way what is soft or cold or hot, and in another the diverse colours of things, and see all that goes along with colour. Likewise, the taste of the mouth has its power apart; in one way smells arise, in another sounds. And so it must needs be that one

sense cannot prove another false. Nor again will they be able to pass judgement on themselves, since equal trust must at all times be placed in them. Therefore, whatever they have perceived on each occasion, is true.

So I have cleaned up what I said about this in the opening of the episode. I need to listen further to see if i repeated the error later, and if so I'll cut that out too. Probably also this will be worth coming back to emphasize next week. i think the correct formulation is that

repeated perceptions over time confirm OPINIONS, or prove them to be incorrect if they are not true, but perceptions over time never confirm or deny prior perceptions.

Perceptions are NOT equal to opinions, and perceptions are never true or false!

Correct?