

PD24 - Commentary and Translation of PD 24

Post by "Bryan" of July 7, 2026 at 5:42 PM

Hello Patrikios,

Thank you for the question. Yes, we are accustomed to the list of (1) sensations, (2) feelings/experiences, and (3a) anticipations, but KD 24 gives us instead (1) sensations, (2) feelings/experiences and (3b) whole appearance-based attention of mental perception.

Because all true ideas are based upon impressions from external sources, the use of "appearance-based (phantastiké)" here is only further explaining the object of mental focus. (A false idea is an idea that is not based upon appearances from external sources. If there is no object or circumstance that corresponds to an idea, the word used for that idea is a label for something that does not exist.)

(3b) "Epibole tes dianoias (*the attention of mental perception*)" is equivalent to our modern use of "attention" or "focus." This is the action of our mind.

(3a) "Prolepsis (*anticipation*)" is a general "mental sense" of something. This is the object of our mind's action.

For example, you can "focus" your attention to your "general sense" of what a cow is. Or, to use the technical language, you can use your *attention of mental perception* toward your *anticipation* of a cow's qualities.

Even when considering (i.e., mentally focusing) on non-visible objects, that mental focus is still "appearance-based" due to the fact that it must be based on analogy from what is visible to correspond to reality [i.e., be "true"].

This all could beneficially be given a chart or a graph, but I would avoid overlaying it on the modern brain. Below is an my attempt from over ten years ago, but it's not very good.