

Anticipations in La Mettrie

Post by "Cassius" of January 25, 2020 at 12:53 PM

[Quote from Hiram](#)

1. He was unfamiliar with Epicurus as a direct source. His familiarity was with Lucretius, which was a popular document in the intellectual life of anti-clerical intellectuals of his day.
2. Much of what he wrote were commentaries on Lucretian ideas.

Hiram so you are saying that as far as you can tell La Mettrie did not have access to Diogenes Laertius?

If I recall correctly much of Gassendi was based on Diogenes Laertius, so that would seem unlikely, but maybe so, as I am totally unfamiliar with his writing.

I know Dewitt argues that anticipations are hardly mentioned, if at all, in Lucretius, so if La Mettrie was not incorporating what Diogenes Laertius had to say, and what Cicero has Velleius say about anticipations in "On the Nature of the Gods," then that would be a severe limitation on La Mettrie's analysis, at least at to the nature of "anticipations" themselves.