Are anticipations internalized rules about the way the world works?

Post by “Cassius” of May 2, 2020 at 6:21 PM

Pompadour I checked and it appears that the Tsouna article was not here, but I have fixed that now.

So the primary sources I would suggest you consider are :

1) Dewitt's Chapter 8 on the Canon (I always recommend starting with DeWit).

2) Tsouna's "Epicurean Preconceptions" (which includes her references to Sedley's views)

3) Sedley's own "Sextus Empiricus and the Atomist Criterion of Truth" (I have not recently read that one so I am not sure what it contains.

I know however you said you were trying to get a practical and not an academic understanding of the issue, so don't interpret these comments as "Go read those articles first."

I just like to start out conversations by listing the points of view and the sources so we will be on the same wavelength and people reading later will understand the general playing field.

One way I always wrap this up in my mind is to ask whether anticipations are "conceptions" or "something before conceptions." That is why I like the word "preconception" or "prolepsis" rather than anticipation, because it makes it much harder to confuse the issue as being nothing more than "concepts" if you always affix the PRE to the word.

Any version of preconceptions which equates them as concepts formed only after experience would in my mind make the issue a self-reinforcing feedback loop which I believe Epicurus would never have considered to be a part of the "canon of truth" any more than he would have included opinions formed as the result of operations of logic.