

Characteristics of the Wise Man, 1-9 Rough Draft of Outline

Post by "Cassius" of May 29, 2020 at 12:30 PM

"The sage, once wise, won't fall back into ignorance, nor will they willingly do this on purpose."

Just now finding time to start detailed comment. That one has always caused me concern as being mangled, because I hear in it something that conflicts with the "free will" position. If it means that the wise man definitely won't fall back into ignorance, then it almost sounds to me like a Christian "once saved always saved" argument. If it means that the wise man probably won't fall back, then does that really mean anything other than a "truism"?

I always presume that Epicurus either is saying something important, or he is repeating for emphasis and clarity something that he already has said that is important.

So I am thinking there is more than meets the eye, or maybe I am really agreeing with what you indicate is one of the alternate translations in consolidating the passages into a point about the wise man not being generally susceptible to being overcome by emotion and pushed back into ignorance.

Is there another alternative for meaning here?