

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

Post by "Cassius" of May 29, 2020 at 1:35 PM

More on that issue of "incapable" --

Somewhere I recently saw a variation of this picture from one of the Planet of the Apes movies:



The reason it comes to mind is that I think it would be core to Epicurus that despite the talk about the gods speaking Greek, there was ultimately nothing "special" to Epicurus about Greeks or humans or any other animals or things. At least if "special" means "ordained by God" or "ordained by the Universe" then that just doesn't comport with Epicurus' system, in my view. Things are as they are without any blessing that it is "right" that they be that way, and within the limits of nature things can change dramatically over time, since there is no "fate" or "hard determinism" that things must be the way they are now, at least among "higher animals" that have agency.

Ha - I hope my graphic there isn't inappropriate. I am not really a planet of the apes fan and don't remember much of anything about those movies except the statue of liberty on the beach scene! But to me the photo has that kind of "shock" effect that maybe helps make the point that there is no divine order. We get caught up in our idealized categories when there really isn't any higher justification for them at all, other than the facts of experience as they exist today. And that can easily change quickly.