

Referencing help needed

Post by “Diamat” of September 26, 2019 at 7:02 AM

I am having problems finding the right sources for this quotation: Epicurus: “randomness is objective, it is the proper nature of events”. I have found this quote in "Algorithmic Adventures: From Knowledge to Magic"

by Juraj Hromkovič, "Universe as a Quantum Computer" by

Jozef Gruska and "Classical, quantum and biological randomness as relative unpredictability" by Cristian S. Calude and Giuseppe Longo but none of them reference it properly, no DK number, no nothing...

Thanks!

Post by “Cassius” of September 26, 2019 at 8:47 AM

I have never seen that quote or anything like it attributed to Epicurus anywhere. "Objective" is not a term generally associated with Epicurean epistemology, and presuming that term is being used in an ordinary sense is probably contradictory to Epicurean epistemology. Also "proper" as a modifier to "nature of events" sounds suspiciously non-Epicurean. Translations can vary widely, but my tentative expectation is that this is an incorrect attribution.

Do you have any other information about this?

Post by “Joshua” of September 26, 2019 at 4:26 PM

<https://books.google.com/books?id=fHXT...ents%22&f=false>

The author of the text (found via google books) seems to be summarizing Epicurus in contrast to Democritus, rather than directly quoting. Certainly the block formatting makes it look like a quotation, but I don't think that's the case. He's correct that Epicurus disagrees with Democritus on the subject of Determinism.

Post by “Cassius” of September 26, 2019 at 4:57 PM

Good catch Joshua. Yes that way of printing it does make it look like a quote -- either a fragment from a papyrus or perhaps someone's poetic freestyle translation of something from Lucretius.

But in either case I've never seen that version.