

Epicurean Logic and Reason: Deriving True Opinion Through Evidence From The Canon of Truth

Post by "Cassius" of January 19, 2021 at 12:17 PM

Another way I would express today my view of this is that the Platonist/Aristotelian/Stoic side maintains that there is something symbolized by the word "good" that can be decoded by use of formal logic and formal reason, based on abstractions such as "A" and "B," to determine how to live, and that these decisions cannot be made absent a reduction of these symbols (like the "good") into a logical formula that is universally applicable.

That's because on an even deeper level they do not accept that any assertion can be proved as true unless it is reducible into such a formula.

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Aristotle regards empiricism as inadequate because he believes that observation can never give necessary connections between objects. In the absence of causal knowledge the empirical scientist must base his knowledge on a study of signs, and inferences from signs are not reliable except in cases where the inferences may be converted into valid syllogisms. He says in one place that a science of physiognomy would be possible only if an invariable correlation could be established between physical qualities and mental traits, for instance between large extremities and courage. In that case one could infer syllogistically from the physical qualities as signs to the mental traits.²⁸ Especially significant in this connec-