

Tactical Question for the Group Re Terminology In Discussing Reason and Logic

Post by “Joshua” of January 20, 2021 at 5:12 PM

I continue to hold the view that Epicurus' approach to logic is inseparable from the intellectual climate in which he lived and worked. I've cited Stephen Spielberg's film "Lincoln" to this effect here before, and it's a perfect example of what I mean;

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=uZjIIMeKIJY>

What Lincoln is proposing here (as memorably acted by Daniel Day-Lewis, and brilliantly scripted by Tony Kushner) is that moral laws of justice and equality can be derived from the logic of geometry. What's so striking about this scene is that it so perfectly mimics Platonism and Pythagoreanism and their geometric foundations. Lincoln is making a worthwhile and commendable moral stand, but his reasoning is faulty. There's nothing in geometry that *can* actually answer, with any kind of logical finality, these moral questions. In spite of the worthiness of the cause, it amounts to an abuse of reason.

This is not, in my view, to be understood as a carte-blanche dismissal of logic and reason.