

Episode Fifty-Five - Reason Is Dependent On The Senses (Part 2)

Post by "Cassius" of January 25, 2021 at 10:00 PM

Bryan (and others) if you had a chance to listen to the full episode, you heard Elayne ask the question of whether we would be comfortable substituting "adequate description" or "adequately described" as largely equivalent to "reasonable" or "logical." [Edit: I have a typo - Elayne said "accurately described" not "adequately described."]

What do others think about that?

I don't mean to assert that Elayne's position and Frances Wright's position are exactly the same, but I do think we have a challenging question here that can be best analyzed by looking at the paragraph in Frances' Wright's Chapter 15 at the paragraph beginning "["I apprehend the difficulties," observed Leontium, "which embarrass the mind of our young friend."](#)

I would focus particularly on these two sentences: *"You have heard of, and studied various systems of philosophy; but real philosophy is opposed to all systems. Her whole business is observation; and the results of that observation constitute all her knowledge"*

Also: as "that is, in knowledge — inquiry is everything; theory and hypothesis are worse than nothing.

Also: "To this simple exposition of the phenomena of nature (which, you will observe, is not *explaining* their wonders, for that is impossible, but only *observing* them,) we are led by the exercise of our senses. In studying the existences which surround us, it is clearly our business to use our eyes, and not our imaginations. "

Also: "Until we occupy ourselves in examining, observing, and ascertaining, and not in *explaining*, we are idly and childishly employed."

Does Frances Wright go too far in her position, or is this a reasonable restatement or extension of Epicurus' position?