

Recent Article on "All Perceptions Are True"

Post by "Eikadistes" of May 19, 2021 at 11:05 AM

The abstract begins with a **completely FALSE** statement: "*The well-known and controversial thesis that <<all perceptions are true>> is endorsed by all Epicureans.*"

This point is **HEAVILY** contradicted throughout DeWitt's *Epicurus and His Philosophy*:

Quote

"The fallacy consists in classifying Epicurus as an empiricist in the modern sense; he never declared sensation to be the source of knowledge; much less did he declare all sensations to be trustworthy." (7)

"The fallacy that Epicurus declared all sensations to be true and hence trustworthy still flourished." (24)

"When modern scholars seize upon the saying '[all sensations are true](#),' which appears nowhere in the extant writing of Epicurus, and stretch it to mean that all sensations are reliable or trustworthy or 'that the senses cannot be deceived,' they are confusing the concept of truth with the concept of value" [...] To assume that Epicurus was unaware of these plain truths, as one must if belief in the infallibility of sensation is imputed to him, is absurd. It is because he was aware that the value of sensations, apart from their truth, varied all the way from totality to zero, that he exhorted beginners 'under all circumstances to watch the sensations and especially the immediate perceptions whether of the intellect or any of the criteria whatsoever. Obviously, so far from thinking the sensations infallible, he was keenly aware of the possibility of error and drew sharp attention to the super values of immediate sensations" (139)

"This makes it plain once more that not [all sensations are true](#) but the validity of some must be checked by the evidence of others." (150)