

Where Is Epicurus In The "School of Athens"?

Post by "Cassius" of May 21, 2021 at 7:09 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

"The evidence we can observe does not contradict any of these different theories."

Just playing with words here to *perhaps* be more clear:

These different theories are possible because they each have clear evidence to support them and they are not contradicted by any clear evidence. But because we do not have sufficient evidence to conclude that any of them are certainly the only explanation, it is not proper to say that only one is valid."

Or more concisely: Several theories have supporting evidence and, since they are not clearly contradicted by other evidence, it is improper to say that only one theory among them is true.

It would be good for us to really figure out the most accurate way of giving a general statement of this multiple possibility theorem. It needs to be clear that we realize that the theories can contradict each other or be mutually exclusive, so that means that the arguments that support them contradict each other. And that also means that we're separating out and distinguishing "evidence" from "arguments." Further, some evidence can be more clear than other evidence (the tower seen at a distance vs. up close).

So arguments are not the same as evidence. We probably understand what "arguments" mean (maybe not). But what is "evidence?" Is the phrase "evidence we can observe" redundant? How can we define "clear evidence?"