

Propositional Logic, Truth Tables, and Epicurus' Objection to "Dialectic"

Post by "Cassius" of September 21, 2021 at 3:25 PM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

But even more important is to understand what Epicurus was proposing!

Right -- I think the two go hand in hand.

A lot of this comes down to the struggle as to whether to consider the senses to be adequate to reveal reality to us, or whether we need something more (divine revelation, or the analogous "dialectical logic"). The Platonists and adherents of propositional logic want to consider the results of their calculations to transcend the reality of our senses, but in truth it doesn't, and is dependent on the reality of our senses to be relevant to us.,

Ultimately I think we can get a good glimpse by seeing what Lucretius is focusing on in the key section of Book 4, starting around line 470. Knowledge, including all valid rational analysis, is ultimately based on the senses.

So when you combine emphasis on the senses as our realm of reality and you layer on the passions (pleasure and pain) as the ultimate test of what "matters" to us then you've got a prescription for a full and complete approach to determining all truth that is relevant to us, Then when you add in the rejection of necessity (especially when it involves animate agency) you reject the gamesmanship involved in any kind of dialectical logic (which has nothing to do with any of those) because you always insist that the test of truth goes back (regardless of abstract formulas) to what we sense, pain/pleasure, and how we "anticipate."