

Preconceptions and PD24

Post by "Cassius" of December 14, 2021 at 6:38 PM

Nate I am not sure that the term "placeholder" is clear to explain for the conclusion that you may be suggesting. Do you mean "equivalent"?

Quote

the following observation, provided by the *Oxford Handbook of Epicurus and Epicurean Philosophy*: "Preconceptions are direct apprehensions, true beliefs, concepts, and universal thoughts that are formed from the outside by the repeated impressions of simulacra emitted by objects, which ultimately are stored in our memory through an act of focalization of the mind [ΕΠΙΒΟΛΗΝ ΤΗΣ ΔΙΑΝΟΙΑΣ]" (310). The author explicitly describes prolepsis according to KD24.

I am pretty sure that I disagree with the Oxford handbook line of reasoning and agree with what is cited in opposition as the older group which included Epicurus himself.

When the Handbook says that preconceptions include "concepts" I think we have a clear contradiction which rules out their interpretation. In order to be canonical it seems to me that the thing must be PRE rational, and I think most everyone agrees that word "concepts" means ideas and that concepts are the result of rational thinking, not things that float around in the universe on their own --- except under the Platonic "forms" viewpoint.

I would like to see this discussed as thoroughly and as long as anyone cares to pursue it because I think this issue is critical- and I agree with the implications of DeWitt that the adoption of this viewpoint by later Epicureans (and it seems certainly correct that they did so) was a disastrous development for the philosophy.