

Dopamine Nation by Dr. Anna Lembke

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Empty (κενός) as a metaphor in the texts is derived from the actual, physical meaning of an empty vessel or box. You can place your hand in an empty box and move it around. It's the word Epicurus also used for void because it implies the atoms are able to move in the emptiness. Likewise, an empty desire is literally empty.

Here's what I wrote in my Menoikeus commentary: "This is a word that carries a wide range of connotations, but all have that sense of emptiness, void, no ground to stand on (literally and figuratively). It carries the physical connotation of an empty box. If a box is κενός, it would be possible to move your hand around in it. There's nothing there to impede your movement."

Here's the LSJ definition:

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, κενός](#)

So, the common thread of κενός is void, empty, not able to be filled.