

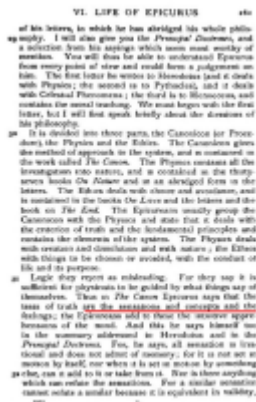
Episode One Hundred Six - The Epicurean Attitude Toward Fate / Fortune and the Role of Reason

Post by "Cassius" of January 24, 2022 at 4:50 PM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

Logic they reject as misleading....Thus in _The Canon_ Epicurus says that the tests of truth are the sensations and concepts and the feelings; the Epicureans add to these the intuitive apprehensions of the mind...Is this from Bailey? If anything, I would think that "concepts" and "intuitive apprehensions of the mind" should be reversed.

Yes Godfrey that is direct from Bailey, and it is one of the reasons I instinctively find him untrustworthy. He could have used prolepsis or anticipations or preconceptions but instead he chose to muddy the water hopelessly by presuming to substitute a word that hides the issue. It's a major problem with using the Bailey material so I try to note this problem whenever possible:



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of his letters, in which he has abridged his whole philosophy. I will also give you the Principal Doctrines, and a selection from his sayings which seem most worthy of attention. You will then be able to understand Epicurus from every point of view and could form a judgment on him. The first letter he writes to Herodotus (and it deals with Physics; the second is to Pythocleus, and it deals with Canonical Philosophy; the third is to Menecleus, and contains the moral teaching. We must begin with the first letter, but I will first speak briefly about the divisions of his philosophy.

It is divided into three parts, the Canonica (or Prooemium) the Physics and the Ethics. The Canonica gives the method of approach to the system, and is contained in the work called The Canon. The Physics contains all the investigations into nature, and is contained in the thirty-seven books of the Canon and in an abridged form in the letters. The Ethics deals with choice and avoidance, and is contained in the books The Lives and the Letters and the book on The End. The Epicureans usually group the Canonica with the Physics and state that it deals with the creation of truth and the fundamental principles and contains the elements of the system. The Physics deals with creation and destruction and with nature; the Ethics with things to be chosen or avoided, with the conduct of life and its purpose.

Logic they regard as misleading. For they say it is sufficient for physicians to be guided by what things say of themselves. Thus in The Canon Epicurus says that the laws of truth are the sensations and concepts and the feelings; the Epicureans add to these the intuitive apprehensions of the mind. And this he says himself in the summary addressed to Herodotus and in the Principal Doctrines. For, he says, all sensation is irrational and does not admit of contrary; for it is not set in motion by itself, nor when it is set in motion by something else, nor is it set in motion by itself. For it is those things which can cause the sensations. For a similar intuition cannot enter a similar because it is equivalent to nothing.

Studying Epicurus is not for the faint-hearted who value tranquility above all else, because there are plenty of controversies about how to interpret Epicurus which we can resolve in our own mind, but never escape having to deal with when people read read various things on the internet.

That source is here: <https://archive.org/details/Epicur...up?view=theater>