

# A Challenge To Epicurean Thinking Grounded in Epistemology and Physics

Post by "Cassius" of March 14, 2022 at 5:32 PM

Yes I would say that us a fair conclusion.

But I think Epicurus was looking for greater precision in describing the problem and addressing it.

Part of it is no doubt " the canon of truth" in which had his three categories of tools by which to judge that which is perceptible.

But - anticipating and negating Frances Wright's "don't worry about it" position, I think it's clear that Epicurus thought we can develop some "rules of thought" by which to judge the imperceptible. He was clearly willing to take firm positions on things like infinite divisibility, and I think he was right that we can develop some pretty clear bright line rules along the line of -

1. The conclusions which we find to be confirmable by using the three legs of the canon of truth (both as to the perceptible and the imperceptible) are never to be considered overthrowable by opinions reached through reasoning which cannot be confirmed through the canon of truth.

2. The goal of life set by nature is to beings who live happily by following the lead of pleasure and pain, not to be beings who are professional speculators wasting time on questions which can never be answered and on activities which are not consistent with nature's goal.

No doubt we can do better than that to articulate the principle but I think that is the right direction.