

AFDIA - Chapter Fifteen - Text and Discussion

Post by "Cassius" of May 7, 2022 at 8:36 PM

Slide For This Week's Book Review:

A Few Days In Athens – Chapter Fifteen

Chapter 15 Summary – A Discussion of Materialism

- Methodius accuses Aristotle of pedantry, and says that it is error to mistake mystery for wisdom, pedantry for knowledge, and prejudice for virtue.
- Methodius discusses cause and effect and that there is a limit to how far back we can go.
- Lactantius explains how skepticism is error, and that we must focus on observation.
- Lactantius says inquiry is everything; theory and hypothesis can be worse than nothing when they amount to preconceived abstractions of view or vision.
- Lactantius says no moral truths are self-evident, but require observation and reasoning to determine the consequences of actions.
- Lactantius addresses the "first cause" argument and responds that the universe is eternal and has no first cause.
- Lactantius addresses the argument that the universe is "ordered" by observing that what we see as order is only our perception of the way things are.
- Lactantius points out that qualities do not exist apart from the matter with which they associated, and that Aristotle was wrong in asserting the opposite.
- Francis Wright interprets an editor's note and suggests that the scientists of her day adopt Epicurean ideas without reviling Epicurus.



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