

# "Lucretius on the Size of the Sun", by T.H.M. Gellar-Goad

Post by "Cassius" of June 15, 2022 at 1:39 PM

From the above:

*"In this matter as almost everywhere else, the Epicureans appealed to the truth of sense-perception - with the important caution that discerning reality from appearance requires perception-based judgment, which itself is not guaranteed to be true."*

My reason for posting this:

1. I think it's an extremely perceptive sentence.
2. I wonder if Gellar-Goad was correct in including the "almost"(?) Would the sentence be equally or more accurate without the "almost?" Is there any issue in which Epicurus does NOT appeal to the truth of sense-perception with the caution that discerning reality from appearance requires perception-based judgment, which is itself not guaranteed to be true?
  1. This question might take us into the question of whether "anticipations" and "feelings" (the other two legs of the cannon) should be considered to be "perceptions." It tend to think that the answer to that is "yes," but I can see how it would be argued "no." For purposes of this question, however, I do tend to think that we "perceive" anticipations and feelings.
  2. I really like the qualifier "perception based judgement" as a way of emphasizing that Epicurus warned against relying on logic divorced from real evidence.
  3. I also really like that qualifier "which itself is not guaranteed to be true!" That's an important reminder that while Epicurean philosophy is the best philosophy we have, using it doesn't make us ominiscient or omnipotent. It's very possible even through rigorous application of Epicurean reasoning to be mistaken, especially when we simply don't have access to the raw data we want and need to be correct. The claim "*Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven!*" would become something more like "*Epicureans aren't perfect, just doing the best it's possible for humans to do!*"