

Episode 154 - "Epicurus And His Philosophy" Part 10 - The Canon, Reason, and Nature 01

Post by "Little Rocker" of December 29, 2022 at 5:04 PM

Yeah, I also get the sense that they largely agree, especially about the what Hahmann calls a 'coherence-based approach' to adjudicating conflicting sense impressions (for example, 'the stick looks bent, but feels straight'). They are certainly both aiming to explain why the view is perfectly normal, possibly right, definitely not insane.

What I appreciate about Hahmann is that his Greek is transliterated, and he is less prone to using it without translation. I also appreciate that he explores to what extent (if any) Epicurus' confidence in perception differs from Stoic and Aristotelian confidence in perception. They were all empiricists, so they all required some mechanism for addressing Plato's pesky 'bent stick' example. So basically, I think Hahmann fills out the picture a bit.

Quote from Todd

Is Hahmann out-DeWitting DeWitt?!?!

Ha! I'm only getting a sense of the meaning of 'DeWitting' from context, but perhaps this could be a case where the apparent tension can be resolved. Maybe DeWitt means to suggest that Sextus was never particularly hostile to Epicurus (as so many were), while Hahmann means to remind the reader that Sextus was a skeptic, so his chief aim was to convince people that dogmatists like Epicurus were suffering from a psychic illness. Sextus even occasionally cops to using weak, but effective arguments to get what he wants--curing people of dogmatism.