

# Episode 168 - "Epicurus And His Philosophy" Part 21

## - Chapter 10 - The New Freedom 01

Post by "Cassius" of April 1, 2023 at 10:09 PM

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The opening challenge, περικάτω ... ὁ ... λόγος τρέπεται, is peculiar Epicurean jargon for what other philosophers came to express as περιτρέπεται. Determinism 'refutes itself'. As Burnyeat has beautifully demonstrated, there is a close parallel at the start of Lucretius' anti-sceptic argument, where the sceptic who claims that nothing is known is a man who (IV 472) «has stood with his own head where his feet belong» — clearly Lucretius' imaginative rendering of περικάτω τρέπεται.<sup>24</sup> Indeed, 'turn a somersault' could conceivably be the metaphor underlying Epicurus' choice of term. In both passages it is a pragmatic self-refutation that is envisaged.<sup>25</sup> There is no internal logical inconsis-

tency in either the sceptic or the determinist position. But to defend scepticism is to presuppose that the premisses of one's arguments are known; and to defend determinism is to treat the parties to the debate as undetermined agents.