

Time in Epicurus, Lucretius, and Aristotle

Post by "Don" of September 5, 2023 at 6:18 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

"accident of accidents"

I know it sounds weird, but it's just an old definition of accident:

"Any property, fact, or relation that is the result of chance or is nonessential or nonsubstantive."

[Quote from Cassius](#)

In a sense I see all bodies as being qualities, and bodies coming into larger bodies is the chain all the way up from molecules to mountains. So "qualities of qualities" might not be something unusual, but might actually be the normal expression.

I can't get behind that. Bodies have qualities. They can be defined by their qualities. Their qualities can be qualified by other qualities, like time. But bodies are not qualities.

For example:

An apple is a body.

A quality of the apple is its being red.

Red does not exist apart from red things.

When an apple is unripe, it has the quality green.

It is green until it ripens.

The quality green can be qualified by time in that "it has the quality green for x amount of time until it turns red"

Edit: see also https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accident_...%29?wprov=sfla1

Now, this being said, I think [Cassius](#)'s primary issue with "accident" as a translation being problematic is that it could be misunderstood by the casual reader to imply chance, luck, or fortune as in common parlance. I do think that could be an issue. It is a philosophical jargon word per that Wikipedia article.