

Episode 203 - Cicero's On Ends - Book Two - Part 11 - Do The Senses Have Jurisdiction To Pronounce On The Supreme Good?

Post by "Cassius" of December 2, 2023 at 6:20 AM

Episode 203 of the Lucretius Today Podcast is Now Available! After all the pre-release discussion and buildup I hope our audience will not be disappointed! At least I can say this: if it lacks anything in quality, it makes it up in length! 😊 There's a lot to think about in this episode that we may come back to in our next podcast, including:

1 - When Cicero says that Epicurus looks to "the senses" for his proof that pleasure is the good, is he stating Epicurus correctly? Did Epicurus in fact look to "the senses" or to the *separate* "faculty of feeling pleasure and pain?"

2 - In this episode I thought we generally did a reasonable job in remembering to include the prolepsis and the feeling of pleasure and pain when we discussed what tools Epicurus used to "look to" or "observe" Nature in coming to his conclusions. However I think we may need to hit that point even harder. When we look to "reality" for our standards, Epicurus seems to be including prolepsis and the feelings of pleasure and pain as just as real as the things we see or hear or touch, and that's a point that really deserves to be highlighted when we contrast the method of Epicurus against the method of Cicero (and the other philosophers of the world).

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