

Episode 166 - The Lucretius Today Podcast Interviews Dr. David Glidden on "Epicurean Prolepsis"

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[Quote from Pacatus](#)

...the distinction by the Pyrrhonians between "criteria for truth" (which they found suspect - at least with regard to certain knowledge about "nonevident matters") and "criteria for agency." That latter may be uncertain, but can be the best evidence we have to make choices and act upon. It strikes me that, based on Dr. Glidden's analysis, the prolepsis might fall into that second category.

Yes, it is interesting that Dr. Glidden is keeping the anticipations distinct from the visual focus of the mind (αἱ φανταστικά Ἐπιβολαί τῆς διανοίας), and not accepting the anticipations as a criteria of truth. I have preferred to coalesce them.

He takes Diogenes as being sloppy here "[10.31] They reject dialectic as superfluous; holding that in their inquiries the physicists should be content to employ the ordinary terms for things. Now in The Canon Epicurus affirms that our **sensations** and **anticipations** and our **feelings** are the standards of truth ; the Epicureans generally make *the visual focus of the mind* to be also standards."

He prefers to stick to Epicurus "[KD24] If you reject even one sensation and you will not separate (1) a theory about what is still pending, versus (2) what is actually present according to the **senses, feelings, and the visual focus of the mind**: then you will disturb the remaining senses with empty thought - as you will be rejecting the whole basis of judgment."