

What If Anything Has Changed About Human Nature In the Last 2000 Years?

Post by "Don" of January 8, 2024 at 2:35 PM

[Quote from BrainToBeing](#)

If that is not how the word is used here in EpicureanFriends then I'm happy to hear an alternative definition.

Ah! Thanks for that clarification. That helps to show where you're coming from on using that. So, yes, there is an English word "prolepsis" as defined by Merriam-Webster as

: *ANTICIPATION: such as*

a: the representation or assumption of a future act or development as if presently existing or accomplished

b: the application of an adjective to a noun in anticipation of the result of the action of the verb (as in "while yon slow oxen turn the furrowed plain")

And the English word's etymology is from Greek prolēpsis, "from prolambanein to take beforehand, from pro- before + lambanein to take.

However, Prolēpsis *within Epicurean philosophy* is used to refer to a specific faculty of the mind/body. Epicurus chose it to refer to this epistemological faculty from the words available to him and gave it a *specific* connotation within his philosophy. It's been variously translated into English as anticipation, preconception, and some other terms. Using it with its modern English definition within English vocabulary is going to cause a little confusion in an Epicurean philosophy forum, hence my going off on the prolepsis tangent in that prior post. It appears there may have been confusion on both our parts on the use of that word. Mea culpa.