

Can Determinism Be Reconciled With Epicureanism? (Admin Edit - No, But Let's Talk About Why Not)

Post by "Cassius" of February 24, 2024 at 2:13 PM

I've got limited time to pursue this at the moment but when I can I will also review David Sedley's "Epicurus' Refutation of Determinism." In the meantime I highly recommend this for those digging into the issue.

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[Sedley: "Epicurus' Refutation of Determinism"](#)



1983 Paper which is the one of the best treatments of Epicurus' view of the Free Will / Agency / Determinism issue available.



Cassius

June 3, 2020 at 8:40 AM

Also, in my own mind I combine Sedley's interpretations with those of AA Long in his "Chance and Natural Law In Epicureanism" which puts forth an explanation I find convincing as to why "the swerve" does not swallow up and invalidate the entire rest of the physics. By providing how small is the degree of the swerve you have a theory that allows both for the swerve of the atom giving rise to "choice" while also allowing the rest of the universe to proceed in a uniformly mechanistic way.

To me the two positions staked out by Sedley and Long go hand in hand to allow consistency in the theory.

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[Long: "Chance and Natural Law In Epicureanism"](#)



Long: "Chance and Natural Law In Epicureanism"

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2679-can-determinism-be-reconciled-with-epicureanism-admin-edit-no-but-let-s-talk-abo/?postID=29366#post29366>



Cassius

June 28, 2019 at 8:52 AM